BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

VOLUME 28

RIPPERSANIME
OTHERSIDEOFSKY
OFFTOPIA
HAPPYSCANS!

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アフタヌーン
KC775

無限の住人 28

沙村広明

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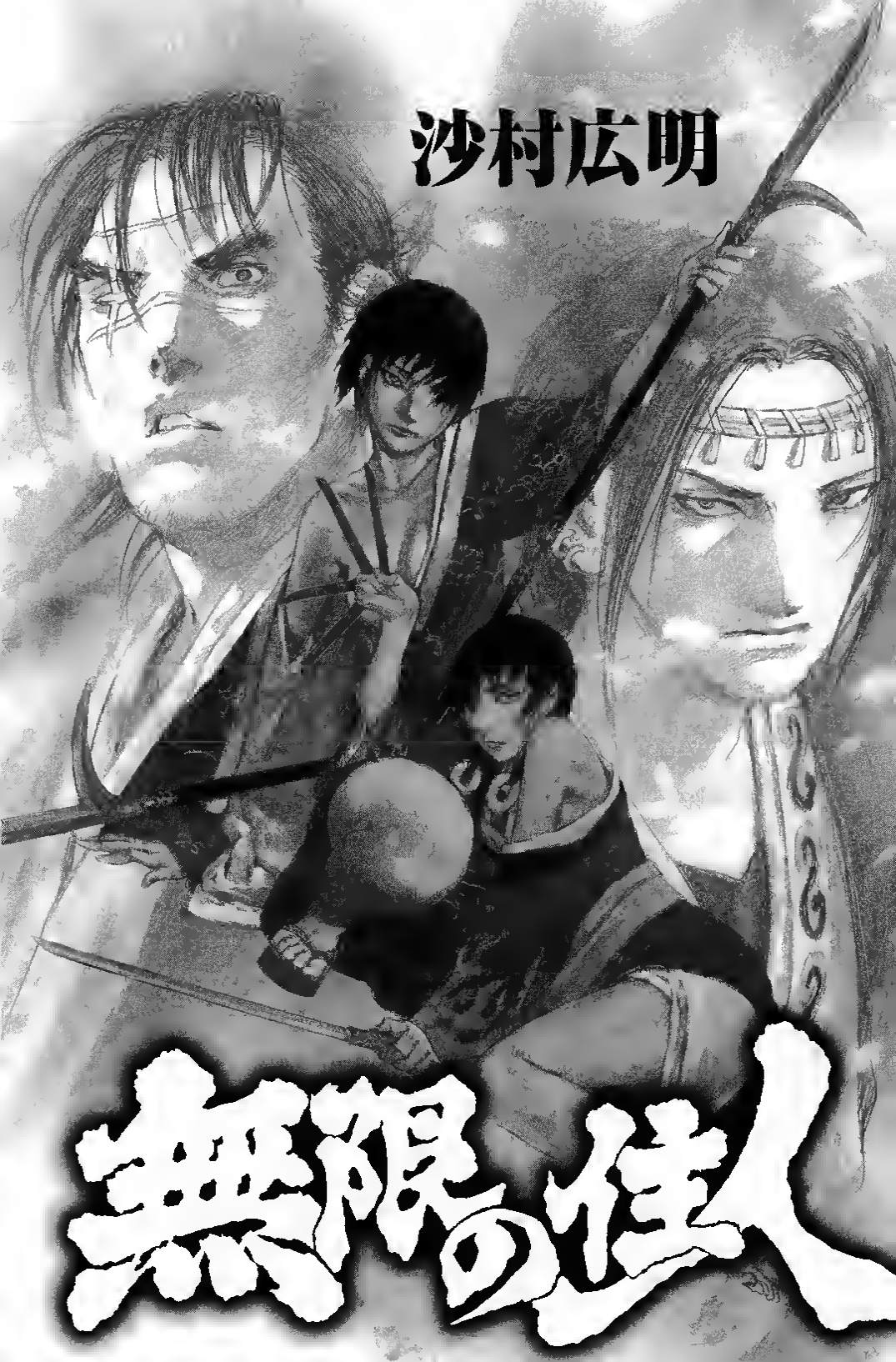
28


沙村広明
無限の住人

❖The 185th Chapter❖

Law of the Road

-The First Part-

SO, IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS.
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE GETTING OLD, SABUROU.
CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE OTHERS?
...REALLY. IT'S A BIT EARLY FOR MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.
BE QUIET. SOMETHING'S COMING.
WITHOUT EVEN A CUP OF TEA, YOU...
...WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
LOOK OVER THERE.

WHERE IS HE FROM?
...KAGE-HISA.
BUT... EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A WAKIZASHI TO THINK THAT A CHILD COULD SWING IT SO QUICKLY. TO USE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE LIKE THAT SHOWS AMAZING SKILL
I SEE... SUCH BEAUTIFUL SWORDS-MANSHIP.
MY EYES CAN BARELY KEEP UP WITH IT.
KAGE-HISA!?
THAT KAGE-HISA!?
EVEN IF TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED IF YOU DO THAT...
THE CHILD FROM THAT TIME!?
YOU ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOTTEN OLD ALL AT ONCE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ABAYAMA.
I DECIDED TO KILL KAGEHISA TODAY.
HUH? I'M SORRY.
I THINK I MUST HAVE MISHEARD YOU...
NO, YOU HEARD ME CORRECTLY.
I'M GOING TO KILL KAGEHISA TODAY.

KAGE-HISA...
IS PLANNING TO KILL ME AND SEIZE CONTROL OF THE ITTOU-RYUU.
I AM NOT A MAN WHO IS FOND OF JOKES.
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME... DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
ABAYAMA.
EVEN IF HE IS MY GRANDCHILD, THERE'S SOMETHING UNNATURAL ABOUT THAT BOY... HE IS...!
IT'S THE TRUTH! IF YOU KNEW ABOUT THAT CHILD, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NO EXAGGERATION!
HOW CAN A TEN YEAR OLD CHILD SEIZE CONTROL...!?
KAH!! WHAT AN IDIOT.
"THAT OLD LOSER IS IN THE WAY"... IS WHAT HE SAID.
"IF THE ITTOU-RYUU IS TO STAND IN THE SUNLIGHT AGAIN..."
"BECAUSE OF THIS PATHETIC LOSER, THE ITTOU-RYUU HAS DISGRACED ITSELF"...
HE...
REJECTS MY EXISTENCE FROM THE VERY DEPTHS OF HIS SOUL.

KAGEHISA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PLOTS TO KILL YOU.
NO, EVEN IF HE PRIVATELY DISAGREES WITH THE WAY YOU RUN THE ITTOU-RYUU...
EVEN IF YOU HEARD THAT, IT'S STILL RIDICU-LOUS.
NO ONE WANTS TO DIRTY THEIR HANDS WITH THEIR FAMILY'S BLOOD!
OR THROW ASIDE THE SWORD AND DO SOMETHING ELSE, HE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT AT HIS LEISURE.
IF HE WANTS TO REORGA-NIZE THE DOJO...
THE TWO OF US WILL LIVE FOR ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS.
IN TWENTY YEARS, THAT BOY WILL STILL ONLY BE THIRTY.
HIS FATHER DIED YOUNG OF NATURAL CAUSES! IF HE JUST LEAVES THINGS ALONE, HE HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
I SEE... IF THE ITTOU-RYUU RETURNED TO PROMINENCE, YOU'D BE SMILING THROUGH YOUR TEARS... WOULDN'T YOU!?
...SA-BUROU...! WHATEVER I SAY, YOU...
...ABA-YAMA...
ピク

HE CLAIMED TO HAVE RECIEVED THE DEEP TEACHINGS OF ITTOU-RYUU AND BECAME KAGEHISA'S FOLLOWER.
HIS NAME IS KUROI SABATO.
HE CAME KNOCKING AT OUR GATE THREE YEARS AGO.
OVER THERE... THAT BIG MAN NEXT TO KAGEHISA...
PROBABLY.
TO TURN HIS BLADE AGAINST ME, THE MASTER...!
IF I TRY TO KILL KAGEHISA, HE'LL TRY TO STOP ME.
BUT, ABA-YAMA,
YOU CAN BEAT THEM!
GETTING OLD IS TERRIBLE...
I'M PROBABLY NO LONGER STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT MY STUDENTS IN COMBAT... I'VE GOTTEN RUSTY.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE
AREN'T YOU MY ALLY?
IF YOU KEEP THEM BUSY WHILE I DO THAT...
NO... IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU WIN. WHILE I BEHEAD KAGEHISA...
SA-BU-ROU.
ABA-YAMA.
YOU ARE...
I... I...
I'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY MY PUPILS
THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN MY ALLIES... THEY'VE SEVERED THEIR TIES TO ME...
MY SON BETRAYED ME AS WELL.
MY SON... KAGEHISA'S FATHER...
THEY SAY HE DIED OF ILLNESS.
THAT'S THE RUMOR...
FOR THE SAKE OF REVIVING THE DOJO, HE BOWED HIS HEAD TO THAT IRRITATING ASANO DOJO AND ACCEPTED THEIR PROTECTION...
THAT'S WHAT THE MORE TALKATIVE GOSSIPS ARE SAYING...

I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO STEAL THEM AWAY!
THIS SWORD AND THAT DOJO ARE MINE. MINE...!
I WON'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE BETRAYED BY ANYONE AGAIN!
OHH!
YOU'LL HELP ME THEN, ABA-YAMA!?
...I UNDER-STAND.
...SA-BUROU... YOU...
YOUR ITTOU-RYUU... I'LL HELP TO DEFEND IT.
YES.

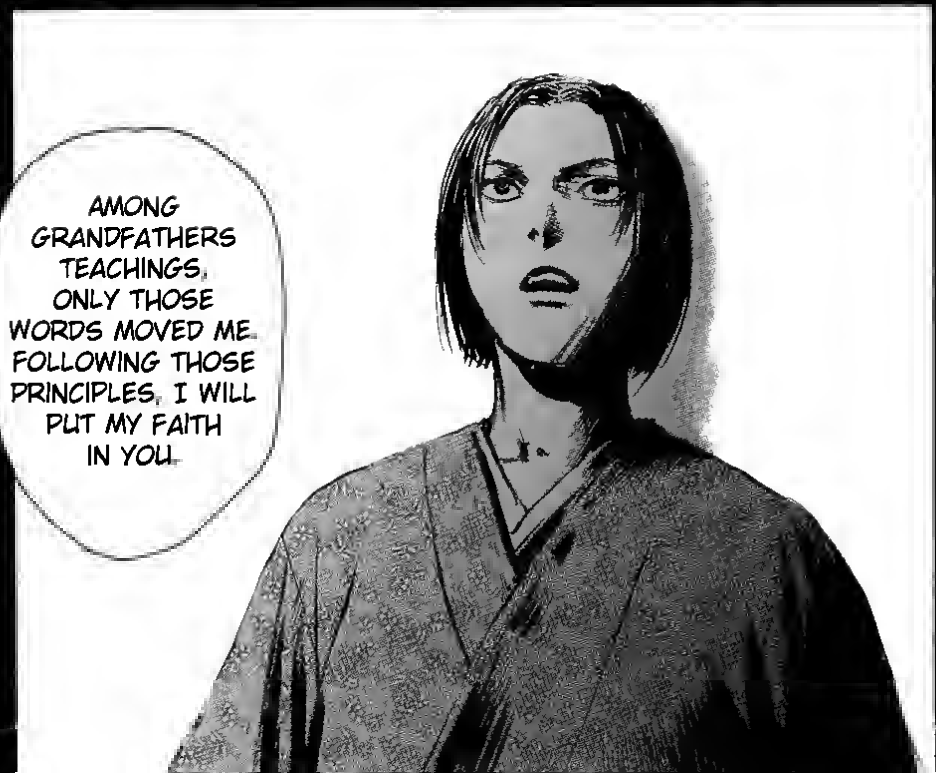
!?
ANOTSU SABUROU DIED BY MY HAND.
...WHO ARE YOU?
SABUROU'S OLD FRIEND, ABAYAMA SOUSUKE.

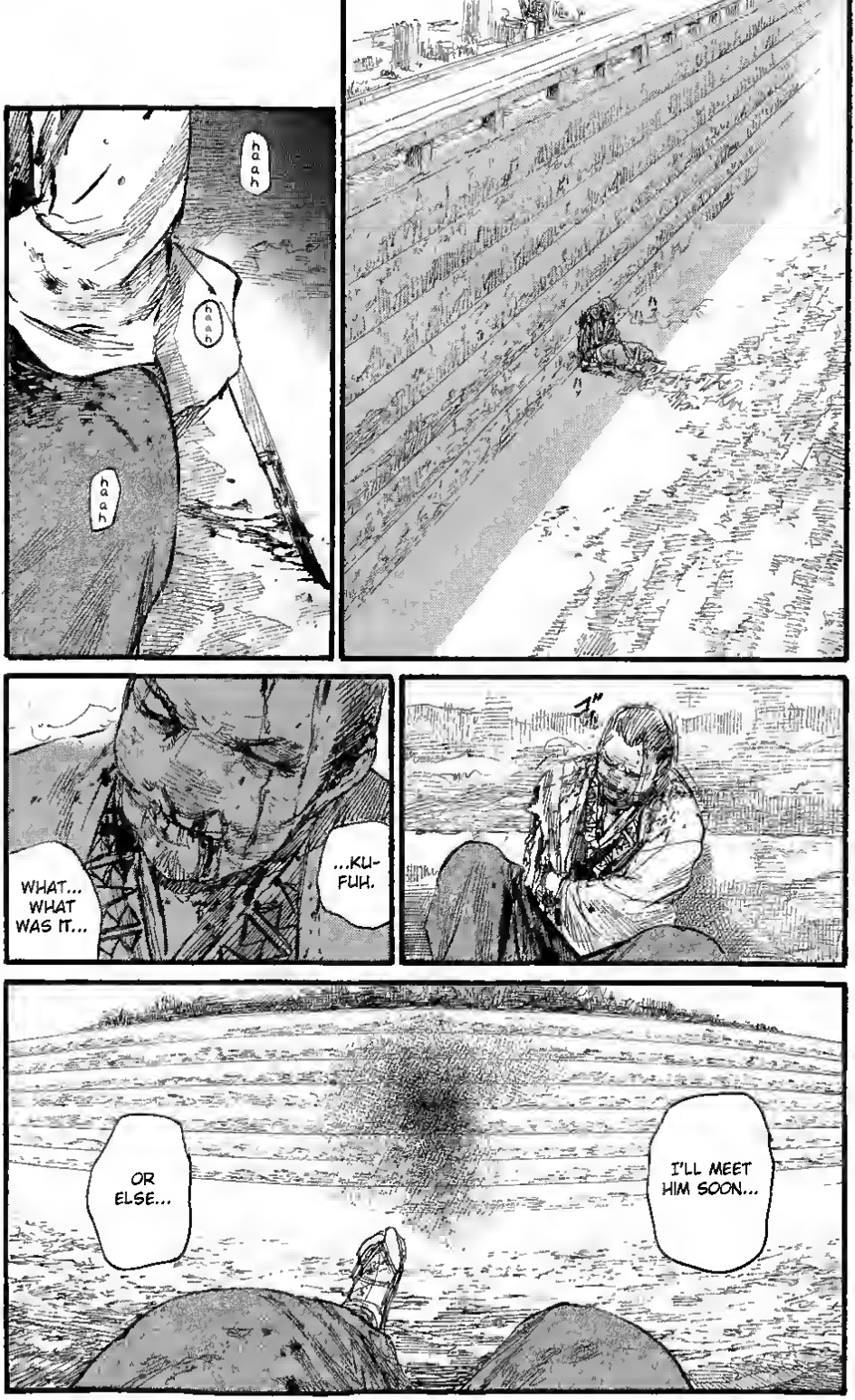
HE WAS GOING TO OBSTRUCT HIS GRANDSON'S LIFE... SO I BENEVOLENTLY DECIDED TO KILL HIM.
LOSERS LIKE ME GREEDILY CLINGING TO LIFE KEEPS THE ITTOU-RYUU CONFINED TO THE SHADOWS.
WHY DID YOU KILL HIM?
SO YOU'RE... ABAYAMA SOUSUKE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO SHED TEARS FOR SABUROU.
THIS BRIGHT NEW ITTOU-RYUU BELONGS TO ALL OF YOU.
THIS GEEZER IS JUST TELLING US A PACK OF LIES.
DON'T BELIEVE HIM.

...DO YOU DOUBT MY WORDS?
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY.
GRANDFATHER'S SELFISHNESS CAUSED US UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES ...
BESIDES,
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T DARE TO APPEAR BEFORE US
IF YOU HAD KILLED GRANDFATHER FOR WICKED REASONS...
EVEN A YOUTH LIKE MYSELF CAN SEE THAT.
IT SEEMS THAT YOU'RE A ONE ARMED MAN.
TO DO THIS WITH ONLY A SINGLE ARM WOULD REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF TRAINING.

PROBABLY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE.
YOU ARE A FAR GREATER SWORDSMAN THAN GRAND-FATHER WAS.

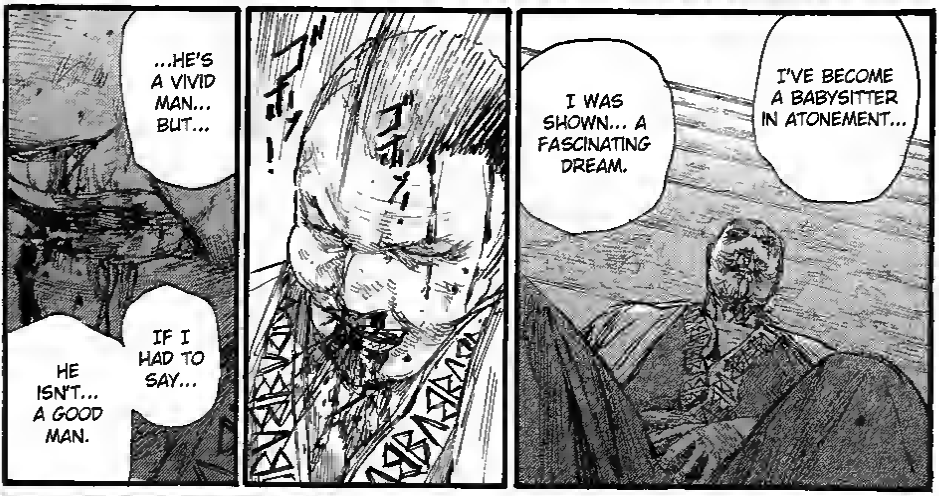
"HE VALUES NOTHING ELSE".
"A TRUE WARRIOR CARES FOR NOTHING BUT THE SWORD".


AMONG GRANDFATHERS TEACHINGS, ONLY THOSE WORDS MOVED ME. FOLLOWING THOSE PRINCIPLES, I WILL PUT MY FAITH IN YOU.


haah
haah
haah
WHAT... WHAT WAS IT...
...KU-FUH.
OR ELSE...
I'LL MEET HIM SOON...

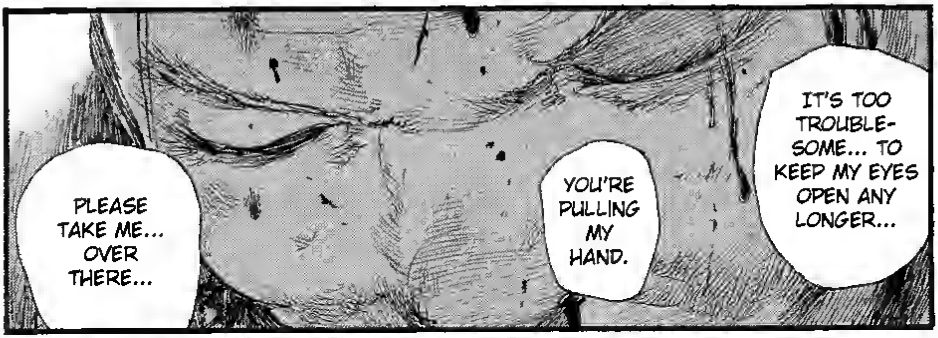
HAVE YOU COME... TO COMPLAIN?
KUH... COM-PLAINTS...
YOU MUST HAVE... A MOUNTAIN OF THOSE...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME... I'M SORRY...
BUT... THE ITTOU-RYUU HAS BECOME LIKE THIS...
I SAID... THAT I'D HELP YOU...
...NO.
KAGEHISA... IS STILL ALIVE.

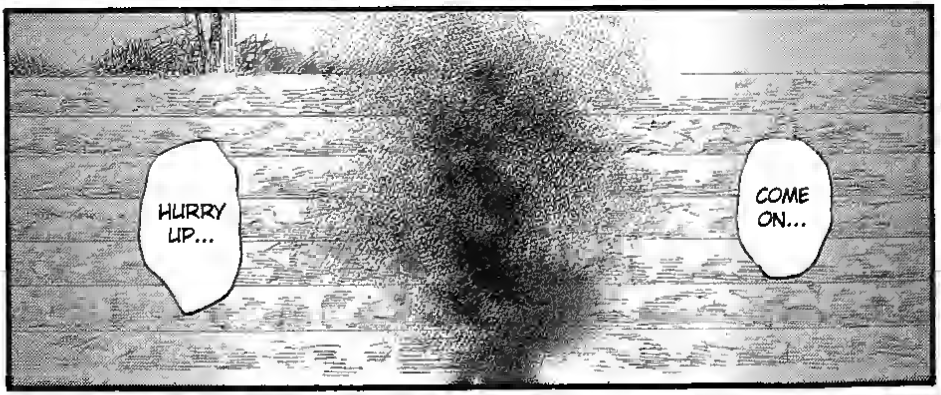
YOU DID TELL ME... YOUR GRANDSON IS JUST TOO GOOD... HEH HEH.
SABUROU... KAGEHISA HAS...
GROWN INTO SUCH A VIVID MAN.

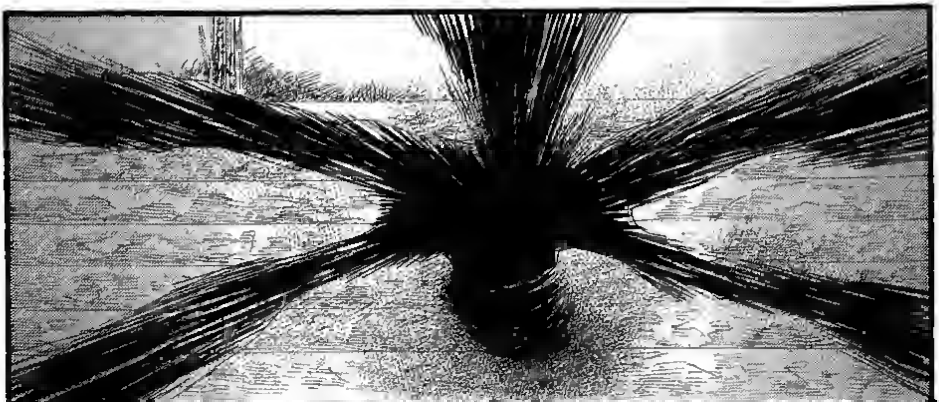

...HE'S A VIVID MAN... BUT...
IF I HAD TO SAY...
HE ISN'T... A GOOD MAN.
ゴボッ!
I WAS SHOWN... A FASCINATING DREAM.
I'VE BECOME A BABYSITTER IN ATONEMENT...

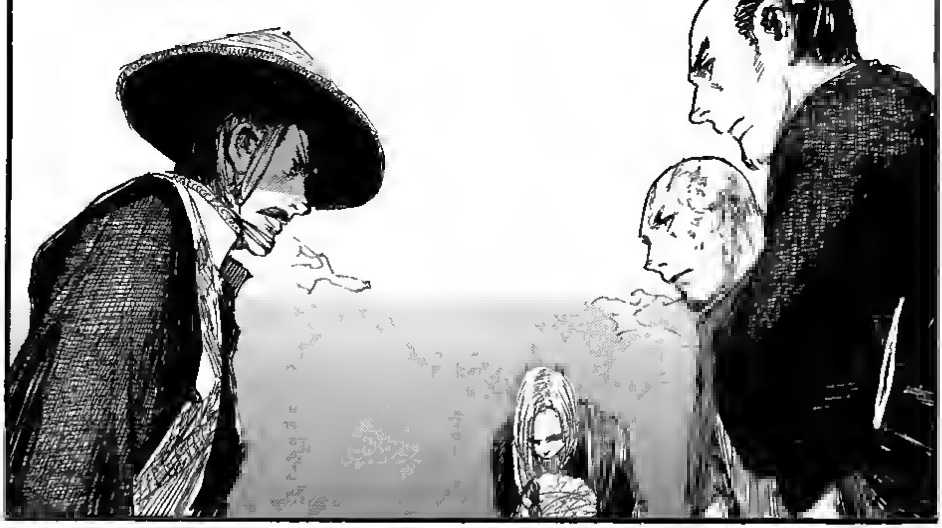
BECAUSE OF THAT...
I'M TO BLAME FOR SUPPORTING HIM...
IT WAS HARD TO TURN BACK... THERE WAS SOMETHING BIGGER...

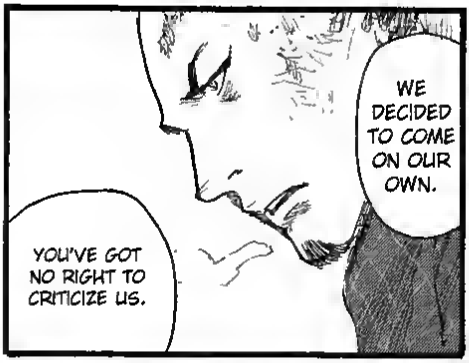
WHAT IS IT, SABU-ROU...
OF COURSE... YOU'RE ANGRY.
OR... COULD YOU BE LONELY...?


IT'S TOO TROUBLE-SOME... TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN ANY LONGER...
YOU'RE PULLING MY HAND.
PLEASE TAKE ME... OVER THERE...


COME ON...
HURRY UP...





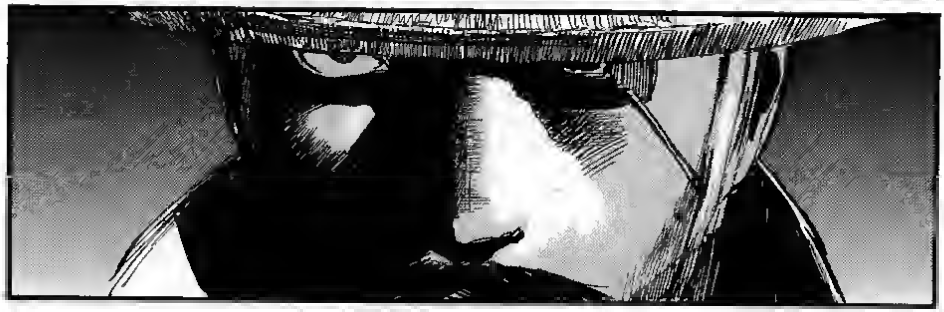

WE DECIDED TO COME ON OUR OWN.
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE US.

...I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING YOU TO JOIN US ON THIS TRIP.

どん
...YOU IDIOTS.

SIR!
MITAKE ARASHINO.
WHAT'S THE SITUATION OVER THERE?
ABAYAMA SOUSUKE AND THE OTHER FOUR FROM THE ITTOU-RYUU SEEM TO HAVE ALL BEEN KILLED.
HERE TOO... SEVEN OF THE ITTOU-RYUU HAVE BEEN KILLED.
...PROBABLY AT THE SAME TIME.
WITH THIS, MITOJI'S ITTOU-RYUU HAS TWENTY MEMBERS.
THEY'LL BE WIPED OUT.

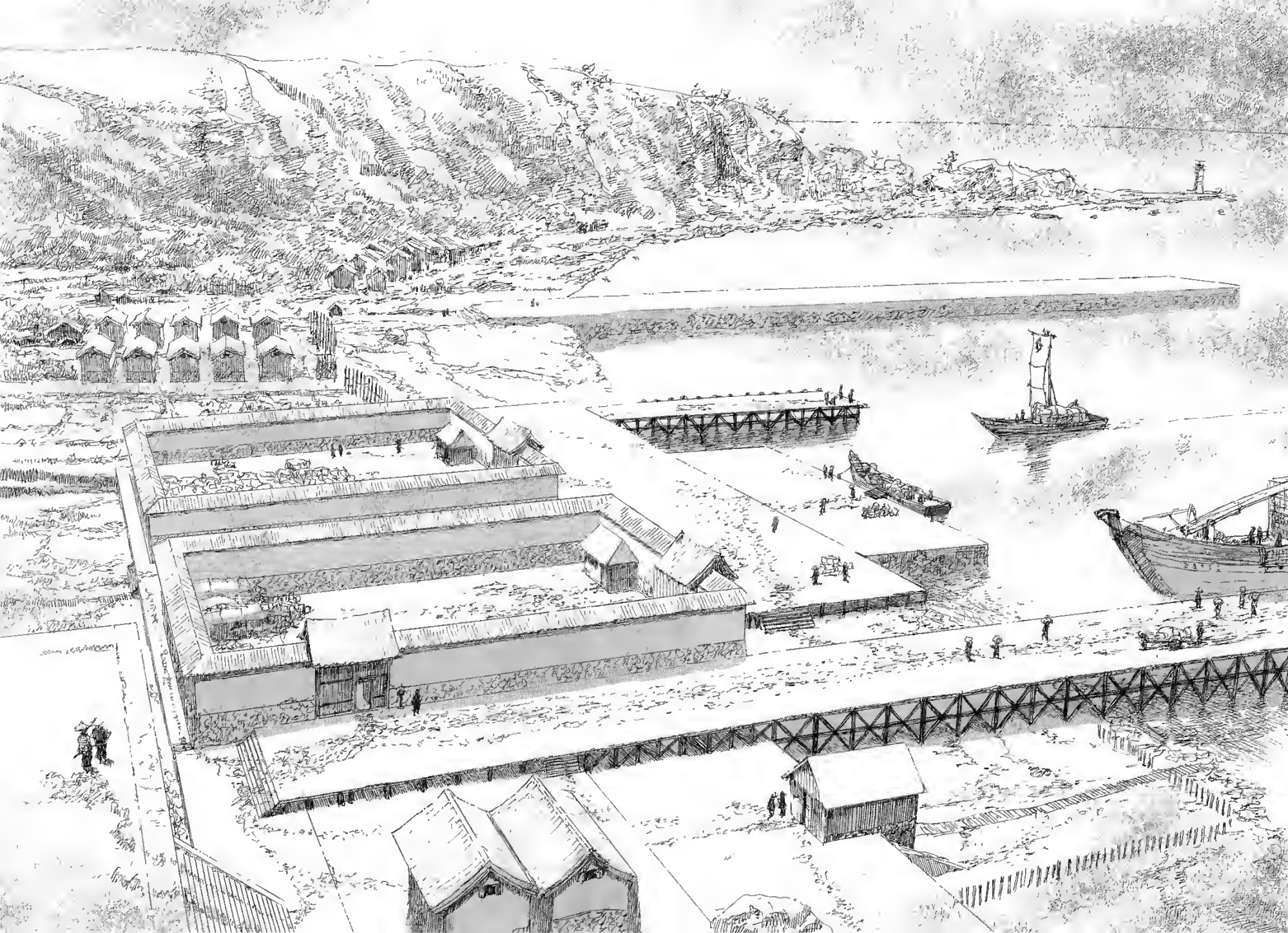
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS KAGEHISA'S IMPERIAL TROUPE.

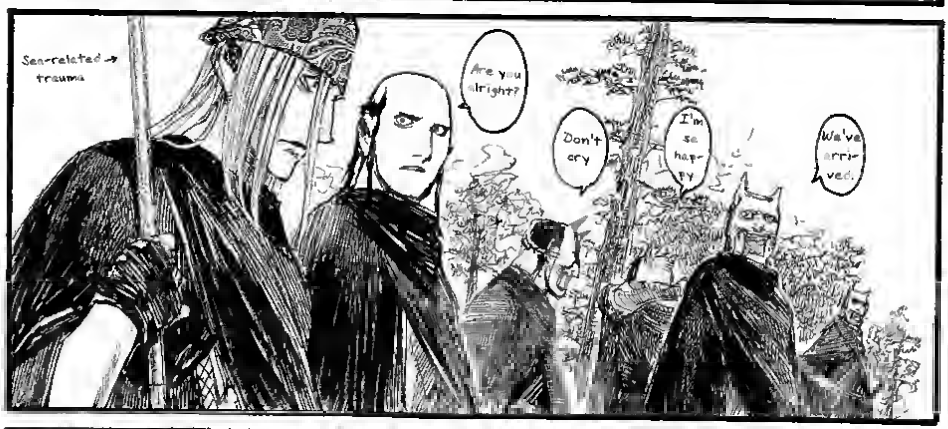


WE'RE GOING TO HEAD FOR NAKAMINATO.

ALL OF YOU, LISTEN UP.

WE'LL STAY IN NAKAMINATO FOR A DAY, AND THEN MAKE FOR HITACHI.
THE SNAKE GROUP WILL WAIT AT THE PORT WITH HORSES.
THE REST WILL RETURN OVERLAND FROM HITACHI TO EDO!
KAGEHISA WILL LIKELY CHANGE HIS ORIGINAL PLAN TO GO FROM HITACHI TO SATSUMA BY BOAT.
GO OVER THE AREA BETWEEN HITACHI AND EDO WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB.
IN THE WORST CASE...
IF KAGEHISA APPEARS IN NAKAMINATO OR HITACHI AFTER WE LEAVE...
THE SNAKE GROUP WILL COME BY HORSE TO ALERT US.
DON'T EVEN LET WATER LEAK THROUGH UNNOTICED.



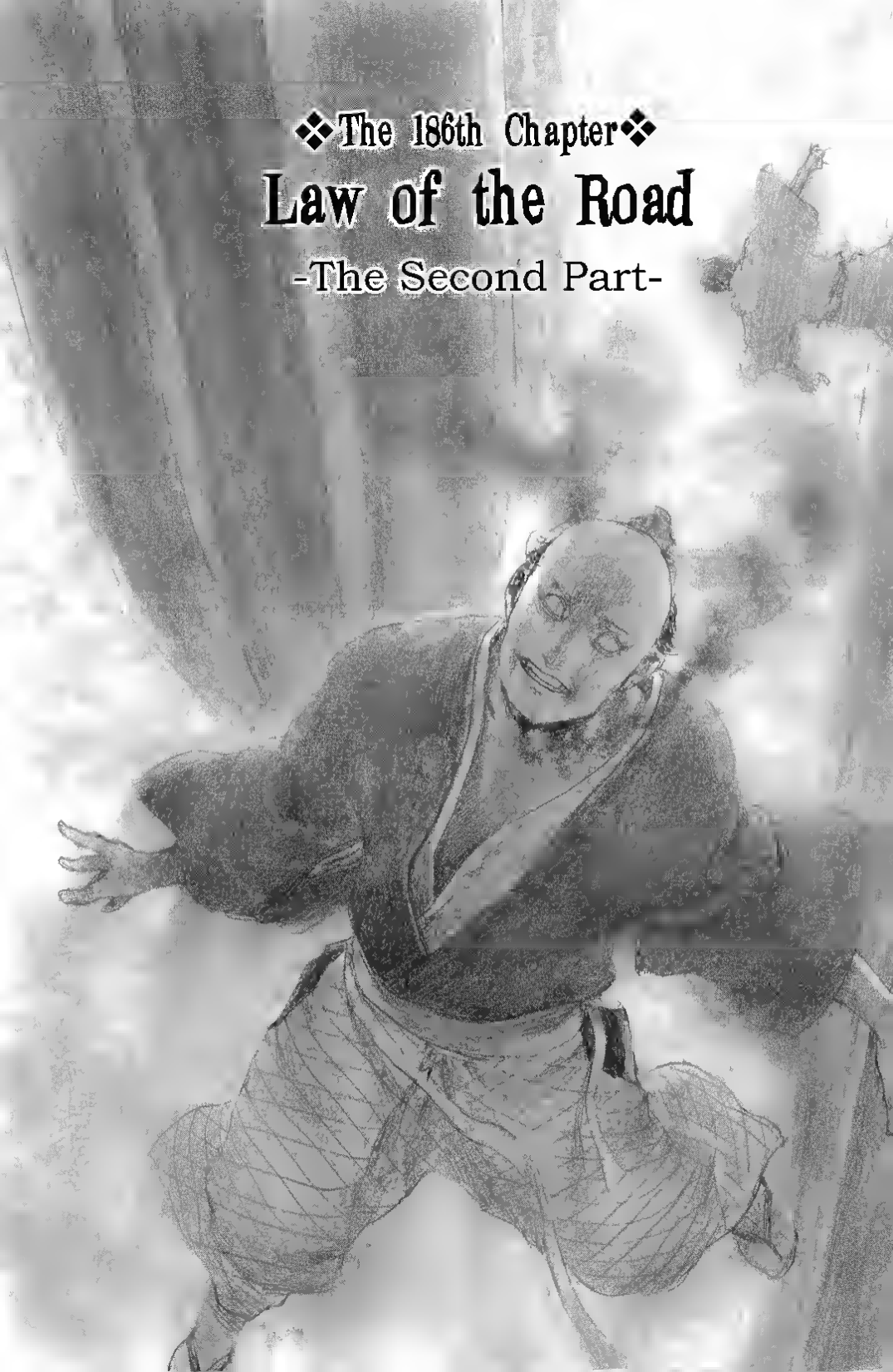

Sea-related → trauma
Are you alright?
Don't cry
I'm se hap-py
We've arri-ved.

...THE ITTOU-RYUU COULD HAVE A SHIP ANYWHERE IN NAKAMINATO...

NO.
OR THEY MIGHT BE PLANNING TO HIRE A BOATMAN AFTER THEY ARRIVE...
THEY'LL HAVE TO HAVE A SHIP READY IF THEY HOPE TO SHAKE OFF OUR PURSUIT.
THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPEND ON LOADING AND UNLOADING CARGO. IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THEM TAKING A BEZAI OR GODAIRIKI*.
IF THEY TAKE A BEZAI, THEY'LL HAVE TO DISEMBARK AT AN UNEXPECTED PORT... THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBILITY.
THEY'LL THINK THAT THAT WILL PUT THEM OUTSIDE OF OUR SEARCH AREA.
Note: Bezai and Godairiki are types of Japanese ships.
IF THEY DO THAT, THEY MUST ALREADY HAVE A PRIVATE SHIP...
COULD WE TRICK THEM BY USING THE ITTOU-RYUU'S NAME AND GOING FROM SHIP TO SHIP?
IF THEIR BOATMAN DOESN'T KNOW THEM ALL BY SIGHT, THAT MIGHT WORK.
THE... THEN...
MITAKE, THIS IS NO TIME TO BE WORRYING.
WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THEIR SHIP DOESN'T LEAVE THE HARBOR.
THAT'S THE ONLY THING WE NEED TO DO.

I WANT YOU TO CUT DOWN EVERYONE ON BOARD...
ALL THE SHIPS, LARGE OR SMALL, THAT YOU CAN SEE FROM HERE.

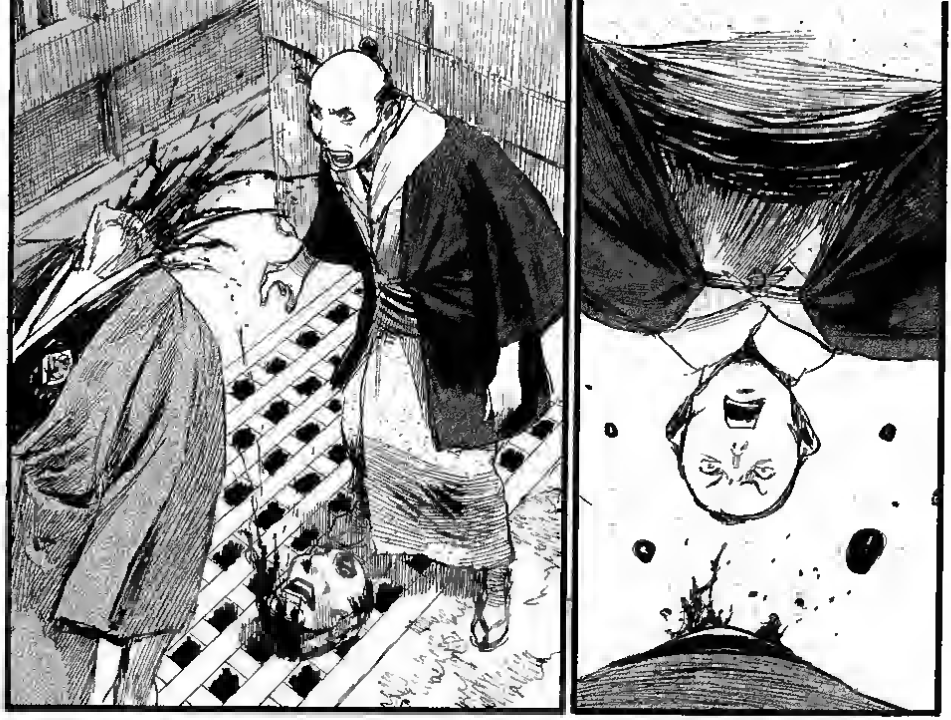
MAKE NO EXCEPTION FOR THE MERCHANTS AND LABORERS.
The 185th Chapter End

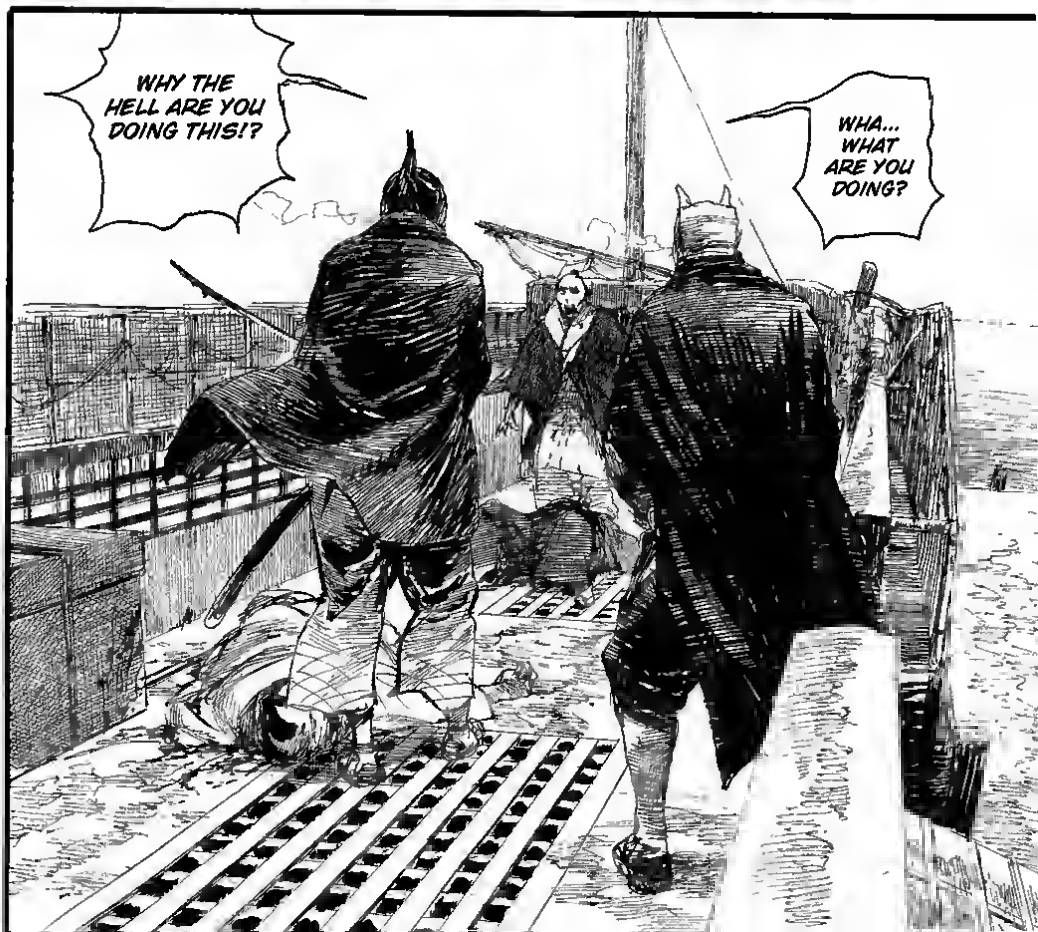


❖The 186th Chapter❖

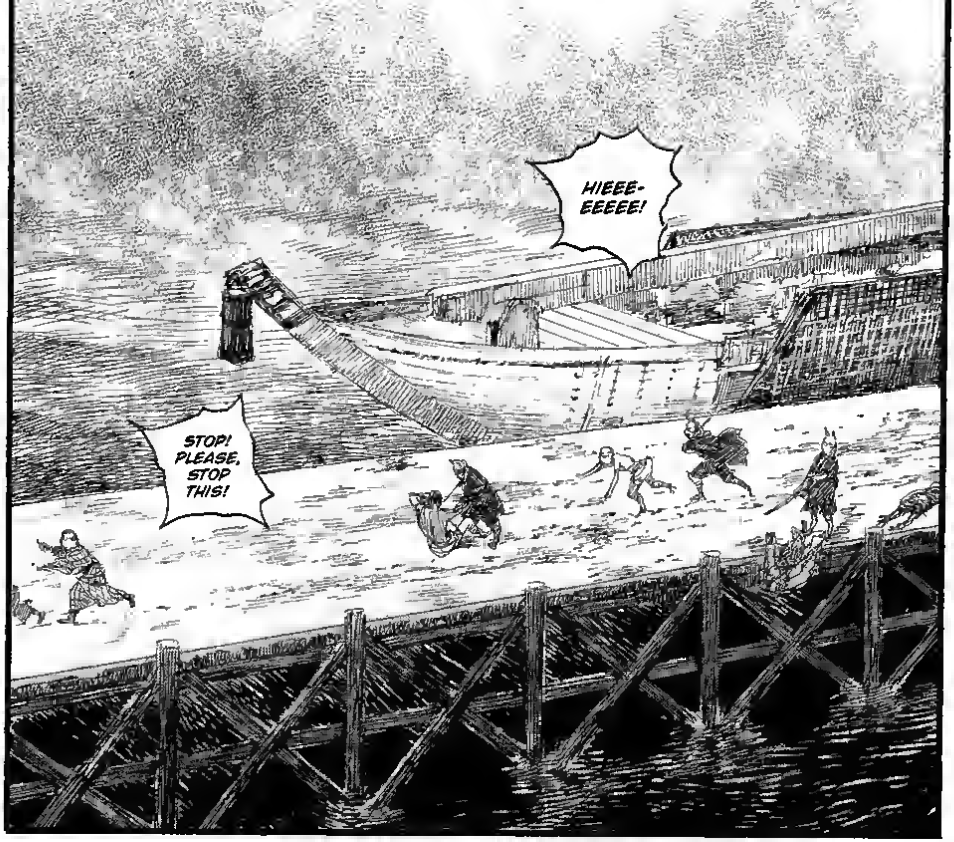
Law of the Road

-The Second Part-




WHY THE HELL ARE YOU DOING THIS!?
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THIS... THIS HAS TO BE... SOME KIND OF MISTAKE.
WAIT...! PLEASE... JUST WAIT....
WAIT, WAI...
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING TO DESERVE THIS!

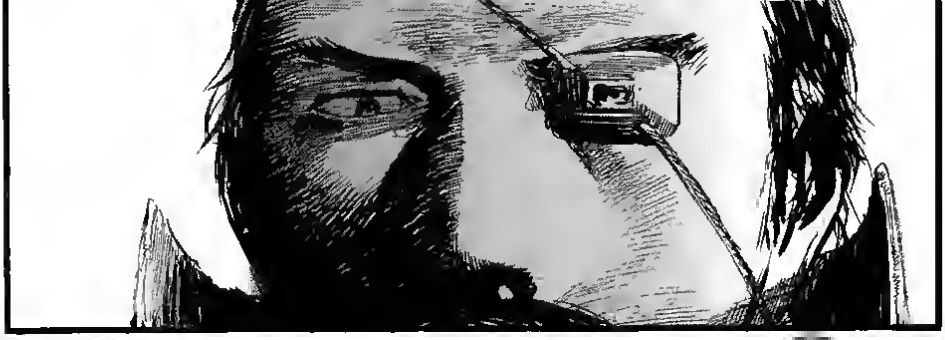


THERE MUST BE A SHIP TO CARRY ALL OF THEM.
A SHIP WITH A SHALLOW DRAFT*.
WE'VE FOUND EVIDENCE OF A MERCHANT SHIP WHICH HASN'T BEEN TAKING ON CARGO.

Note: A draft is the water line of a ship.

FIRST OF ALL, KILL ALL OF THE BOATMEN.
THEN.... KILL THE CREWS OF EVERY SHIP THAT ISN'T TAKING ON CARGO, REGARDLESS OF ITS DRAFT.
AND AS YOU GO...
YOU SHOULD TRY TO KILL EVERYONE YOU CAN.
YOU... YOU BAS-TARDS! DO...
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN END IT LIKE THIS!? WITH THIS KIND OF TRICKERY!?

UWAA-
AHHHH!
HAHH
HAHH
YOU'RE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PLEASE SAVE US!



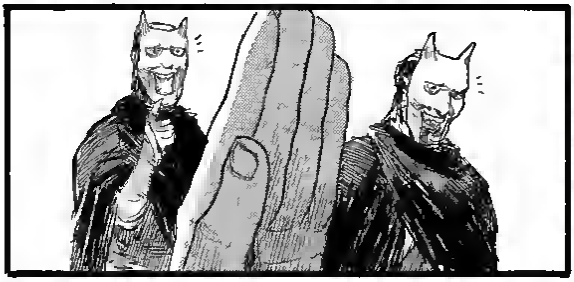
THIS IS A STATE OF EMER-GENCY.
ALTHOUGH I AM AN OFFICIAL,

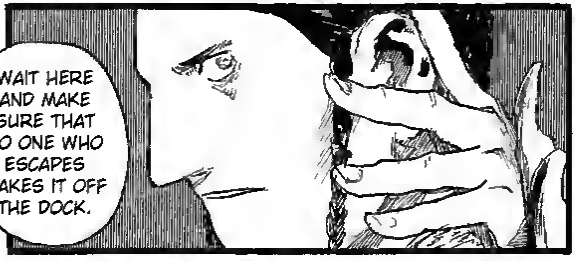
WHAT THE...
HUH?
Toh
Toh
Toh

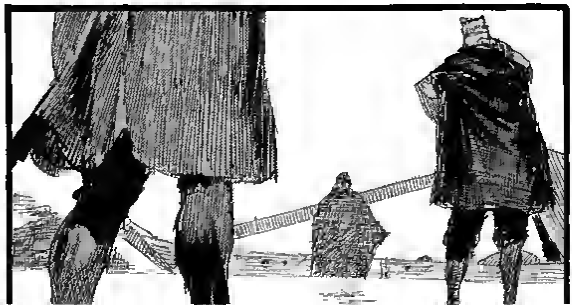
ばぁぁん!
どばん
くるっ
ドサッ
ドッ
ブッ.
...THE ITTOU-RYUU...
ブッ.
THAT DAMNED ITTOU-RYUU...

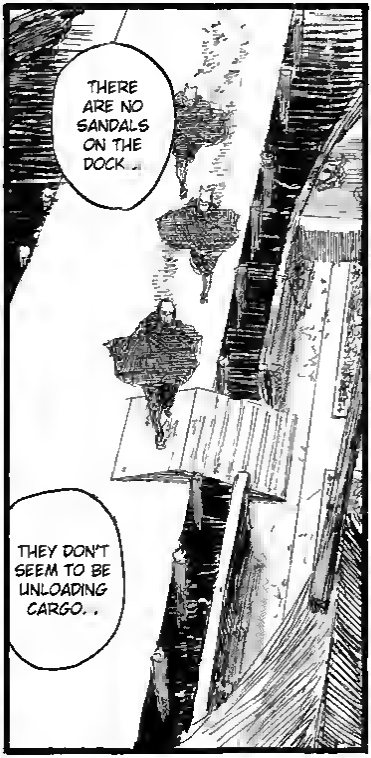
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE!?
YOU BAS-TARD-SSS!
GOV-ERN-MENT ORDERS !?
WE'RE ACTING UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT. PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
THEY MUST BE FROM THE CASTLE.
I JUST TOLD YOU...
HUH !?
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?
THE TWO OF YOU?
HMPH... WE'LL SORT THIS OUT AT THE PRISON.
STOP SPOUT-ING NON-SENSE.

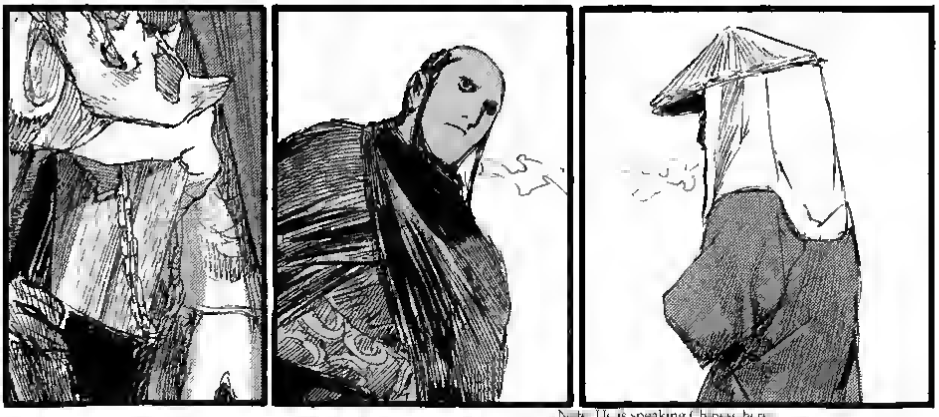
たん!
たん!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE ME, IT'S FINE.
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE FORGIVEN.
...
...NO.
FORGIVE ME...




WAIT HERE AND MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE WHO ESCAPES MAKES IT OFF THE DOCK.




THERE ARE NO SANDALS ON THE DOCK..
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE UNLOADING CARGO..

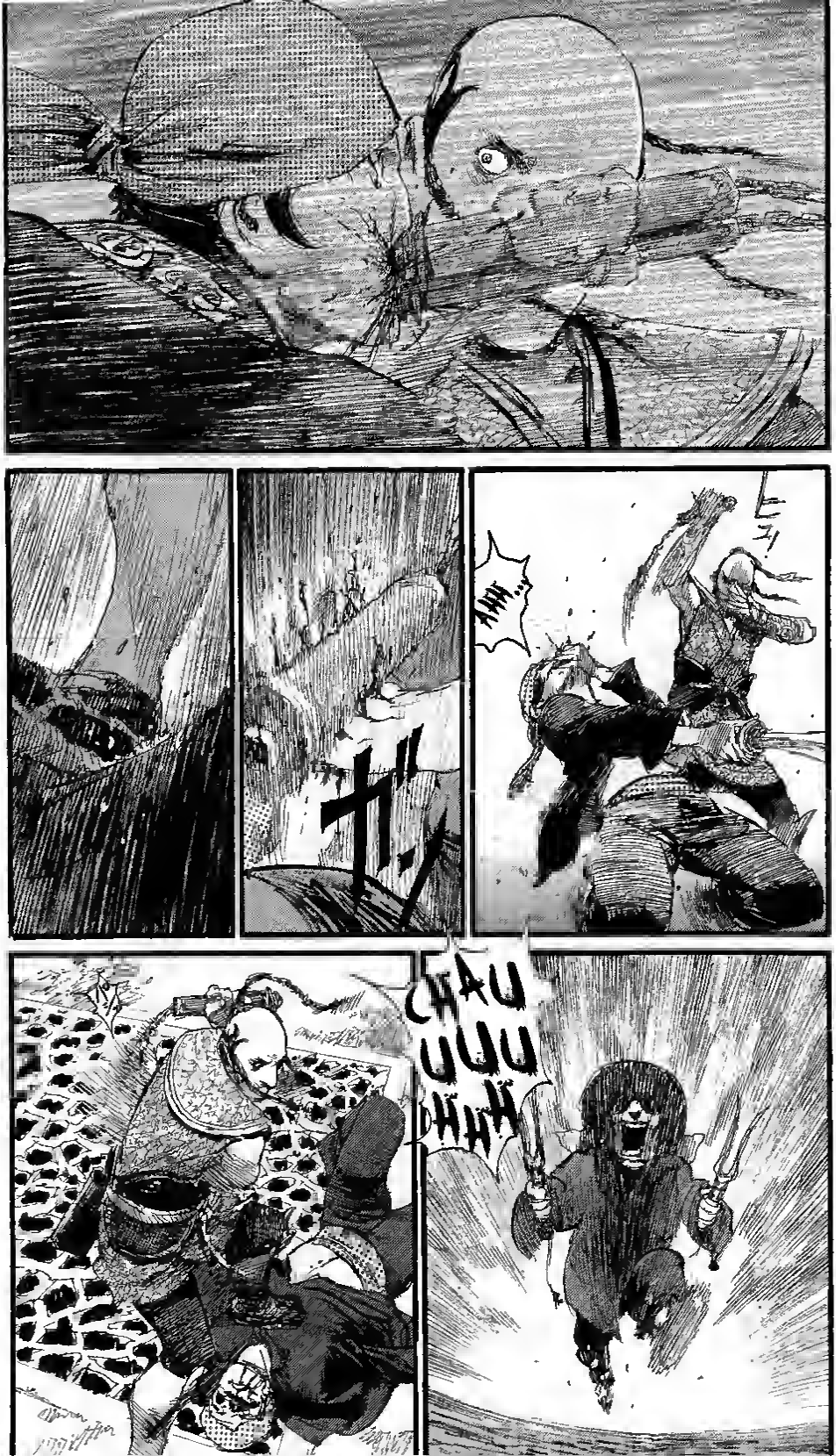


Note: He is speaking Chinese here.

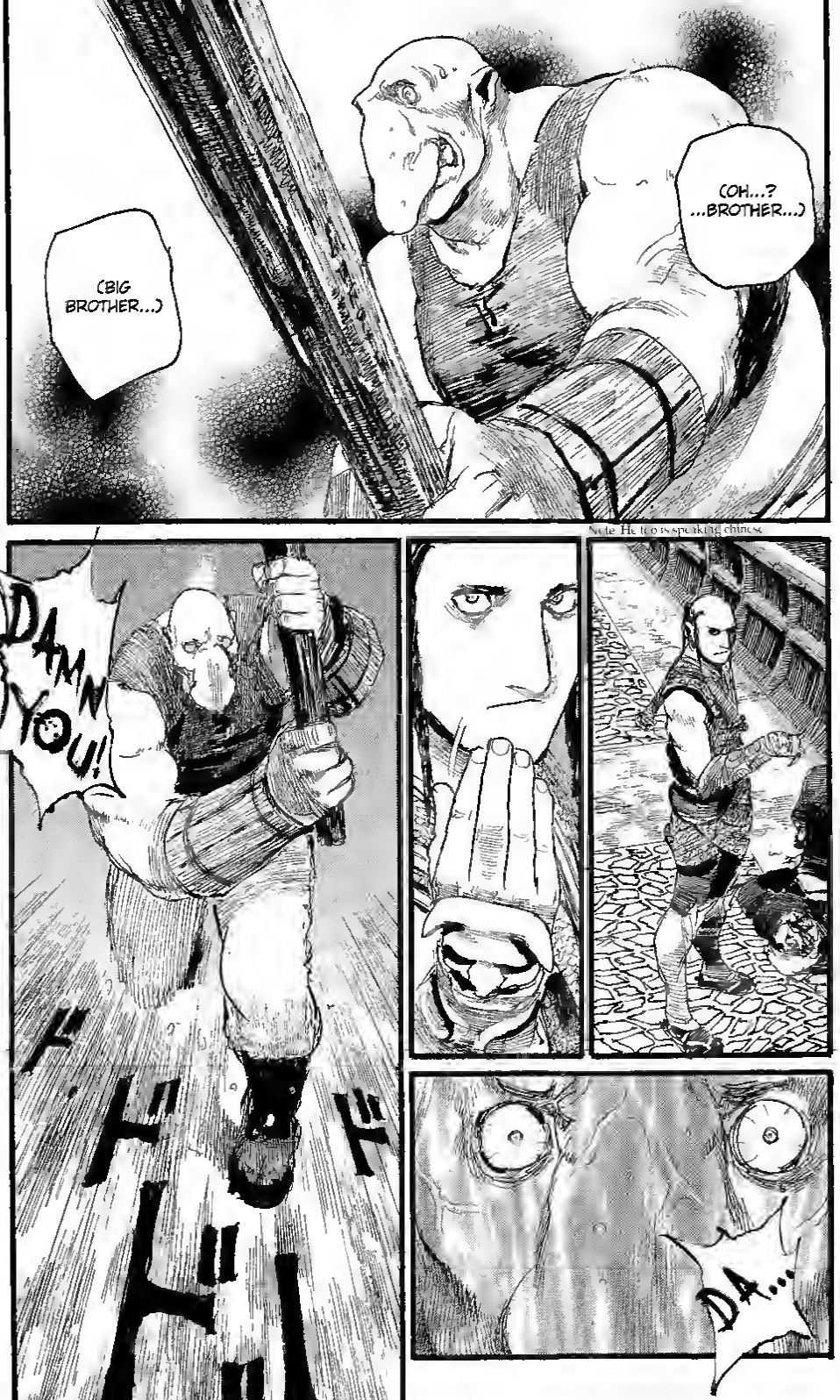
...DO YOU NOT CARE FOR THE ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS?
?

!!
むく
ドン
DIE

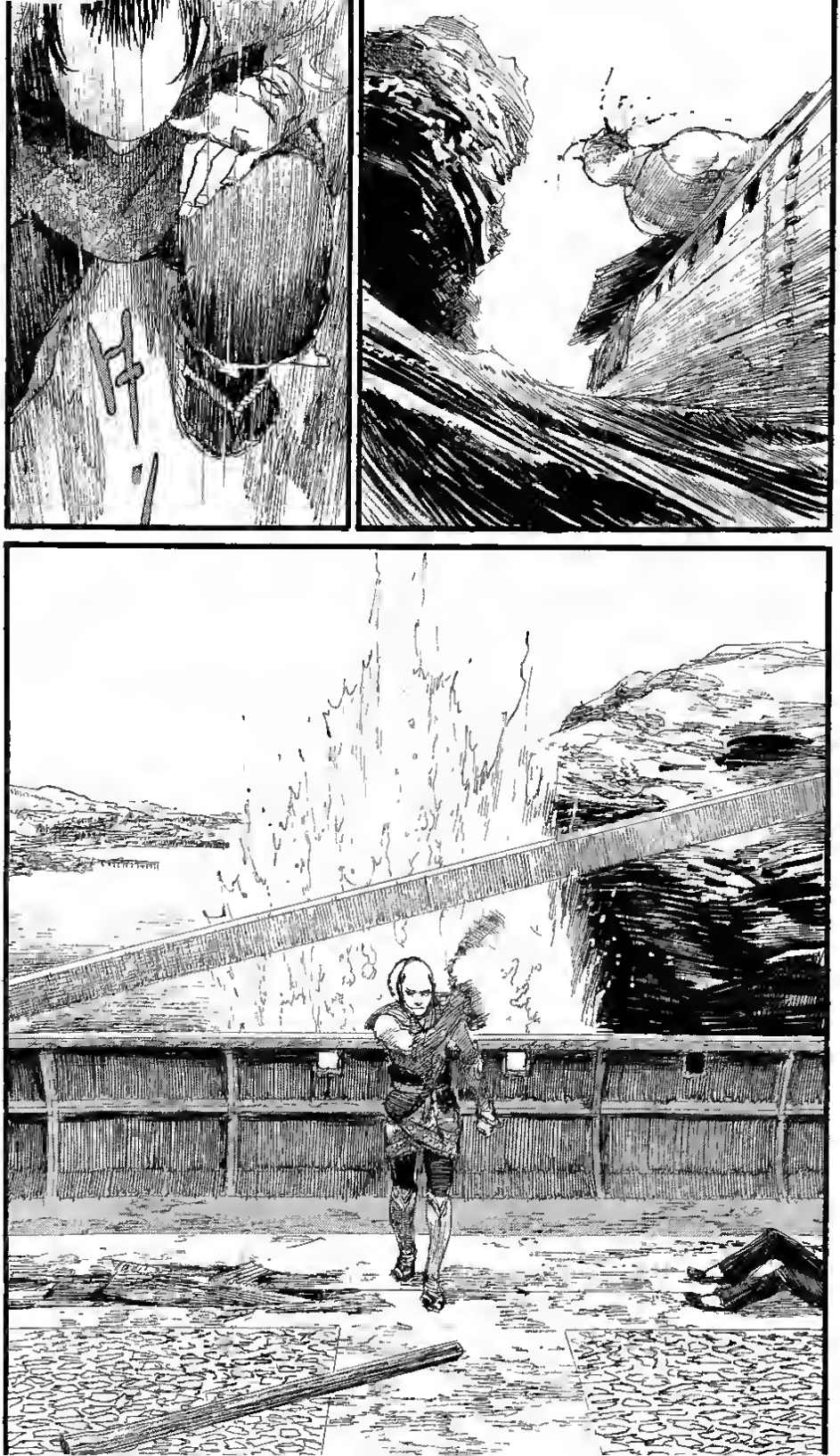
EE
EH
HHH
I'LL KILL YOU.


AHH!
CHAU UUU HHH

……
ドン
ギリリリッ


(BIG BROTHER...)
(OH...? ...BROTHER...)
Note: He too is speaking chinese
DAMN YOU!!
F.
DA...

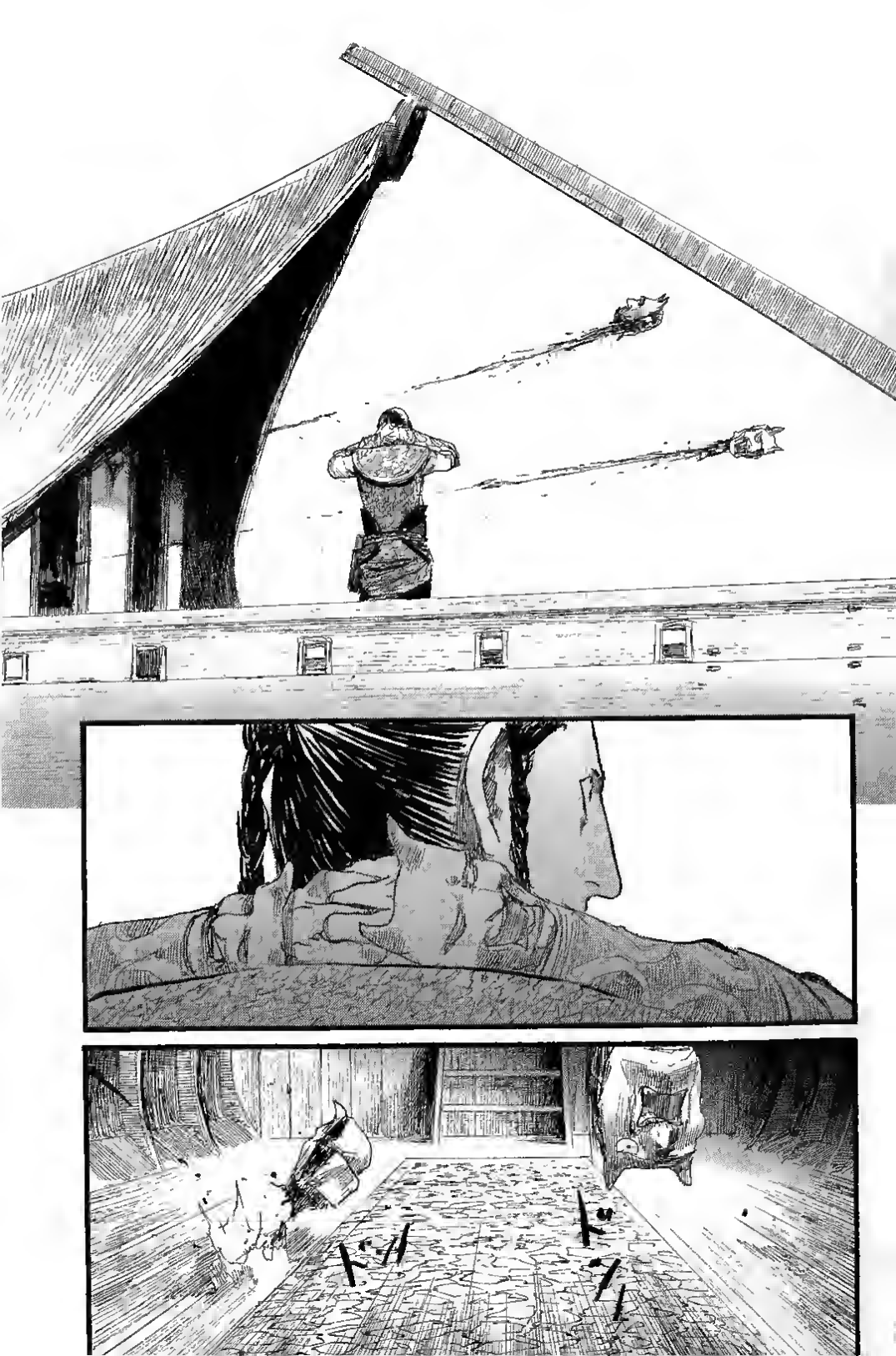
FUUHN



YOU SHOULDN'T COME AT ALL IF YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO SHOW UP NOW.
ARE YOU UN-HARMED!?
LORD DOMA, WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW!?
YES SI... HUH!?
WELL, IT'S FINE. GIVE ME A HAND.
I WANT YOU TO DRILL HOLES IN THE HULL.
I REALLY DON'T CARE FOR THIS SHIP.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY MAKING THEM WITH YOUR SWORDS OR SOMETHING?
WELL...
I DON'T KNOW EITHER.
BUT, LORD DOMA...
PUTTING HOLES IN A SHIP... IT'S SIMPLE TO SAY, BUT HOW CAN WE DO IT?

Note: A type of small b[illegible] used in city w[illegible] ways.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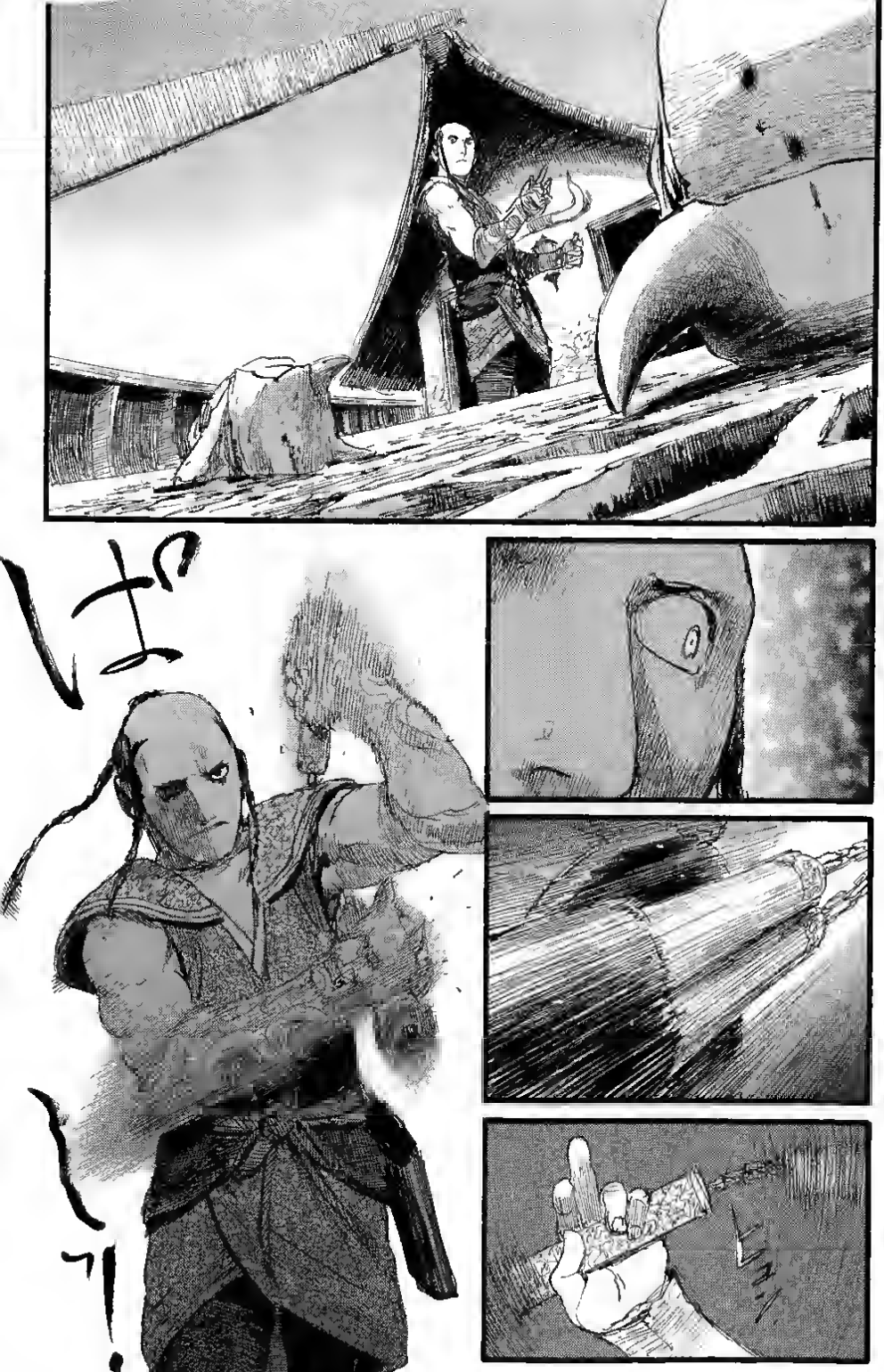
ドゥ


ドン
ドン!

IT CAN'T BE...
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF WINTER
WHY AM I SWEATING?

...A WOMAN...?
KAH

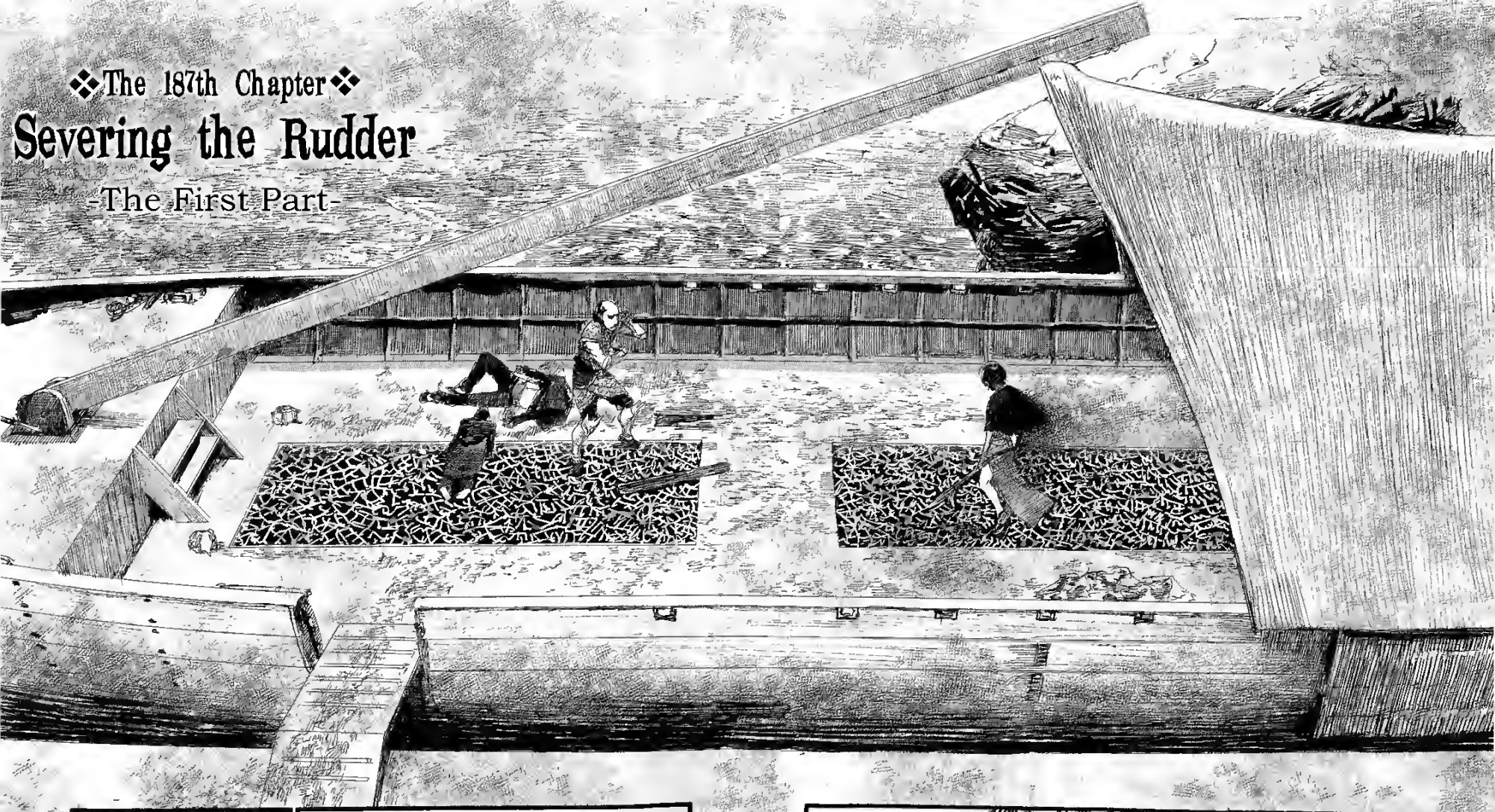
The 186th Chapter End

WHAT IS THIS?
IN THAT INSTANT...
I...
IF WE'D GIVEN IT, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE ATTACKED.
SHE MUST HAVE EXPECTED SOME-KIND OF PASSWORD.
HAVE WARNED US ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
SHOULDN'T HABAKI KAGIMURA...

❖The 187th Chapter❖

Severing the Rudder

-The First Part-



...WHAT EXACTLY... DID YOU DO?
...YESTERDAY,
THE PORT DIDN'T SMELL LIKE THIS...
AND SENT TWO MENS' HEADS FLYING IN AN INSTANT...?
SHE USED THAT LONG THING... IN A NARROW SHIP'S HOLD,

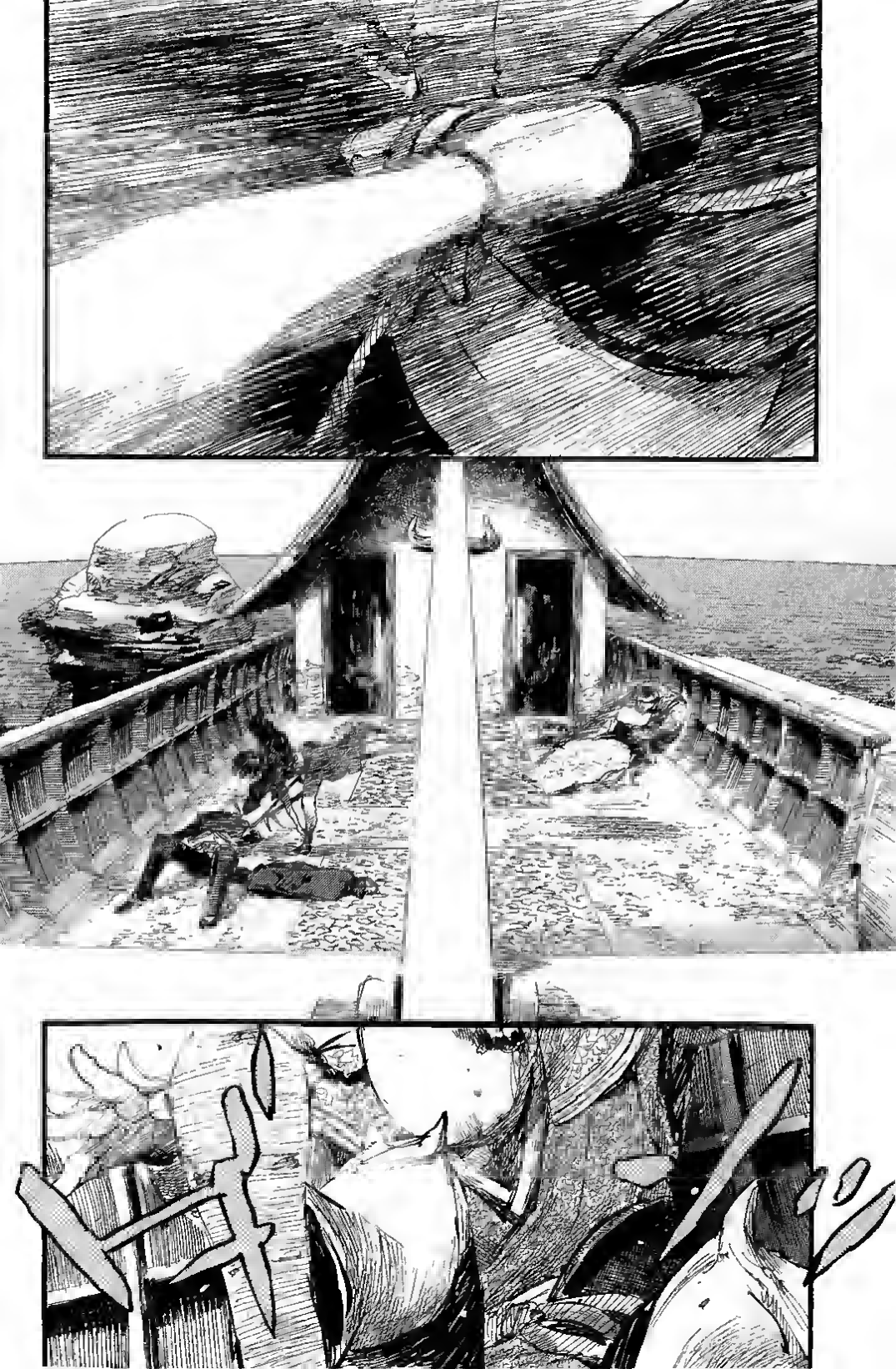
TON
!!
...UH...

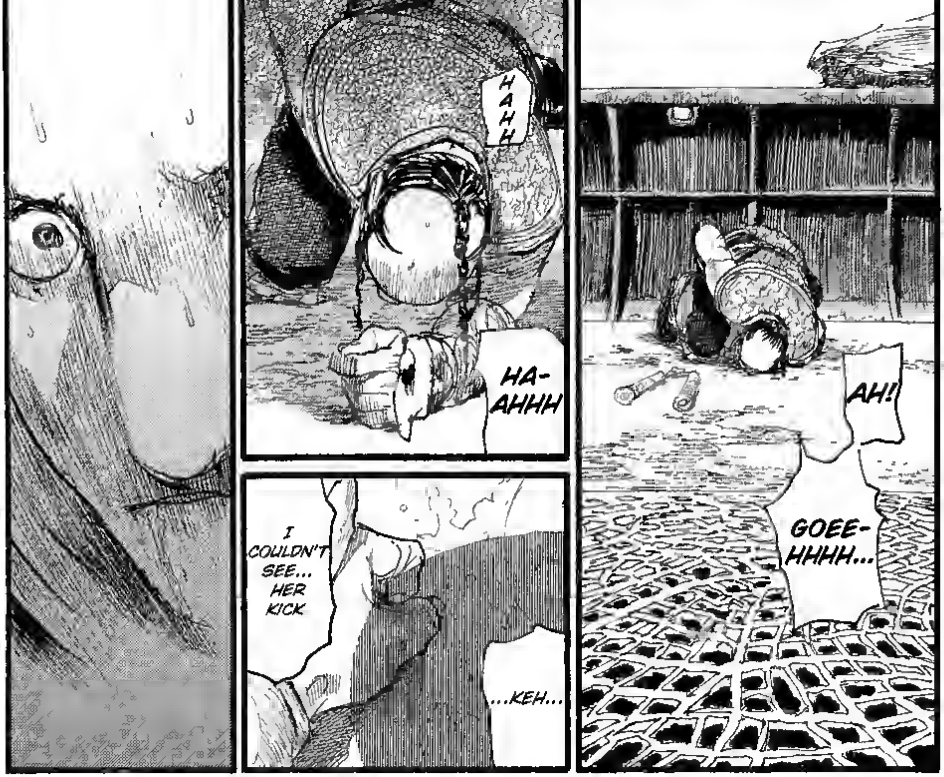
Doh
Doh
Doh
...YEAH.
...YOU DID THIS ON YOUR OWN?

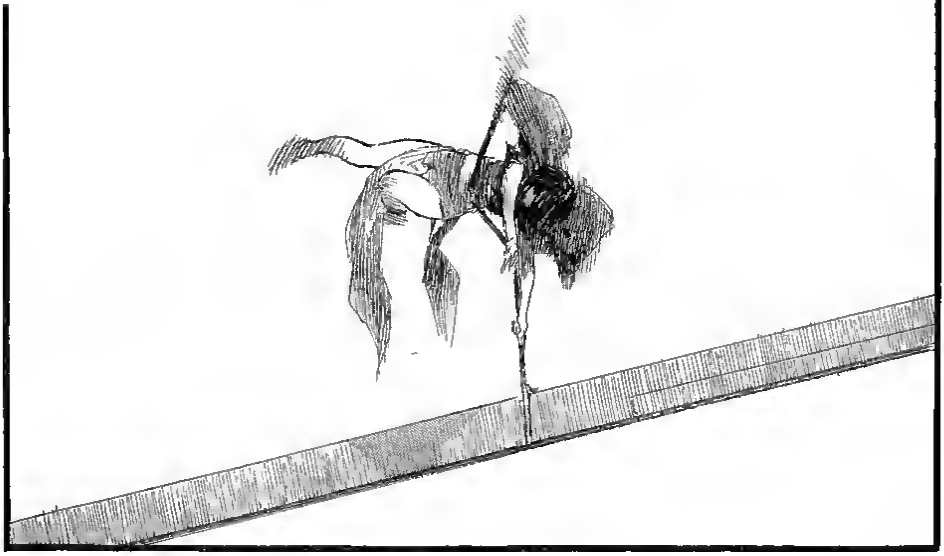
THESE POOR PEOPLE...
THEY DIED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.
...THEY WERE VERY KIND TO ME.
YES... THAT'S RIGHT...
THOSE THREE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
IF YOU HADN'T COME ON BOARD,
...FROM THE BEGINNING.
THE TWO OF THEM...
THOSE TWO OVER THERE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE EITHER
IF I HAD COME OUT RIGHT AWAY...

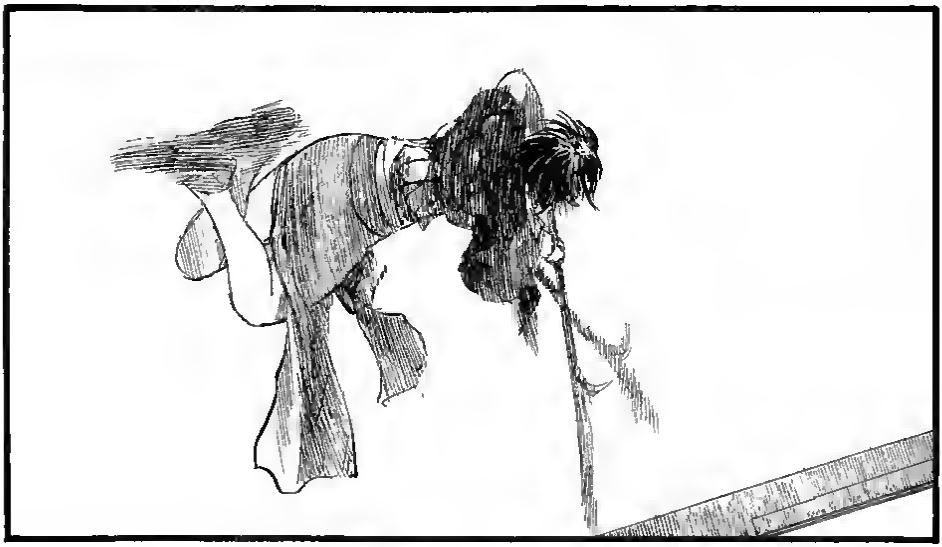
WOULD PROBABLY HAVE JUST RUN OFF IF YOU DIED.

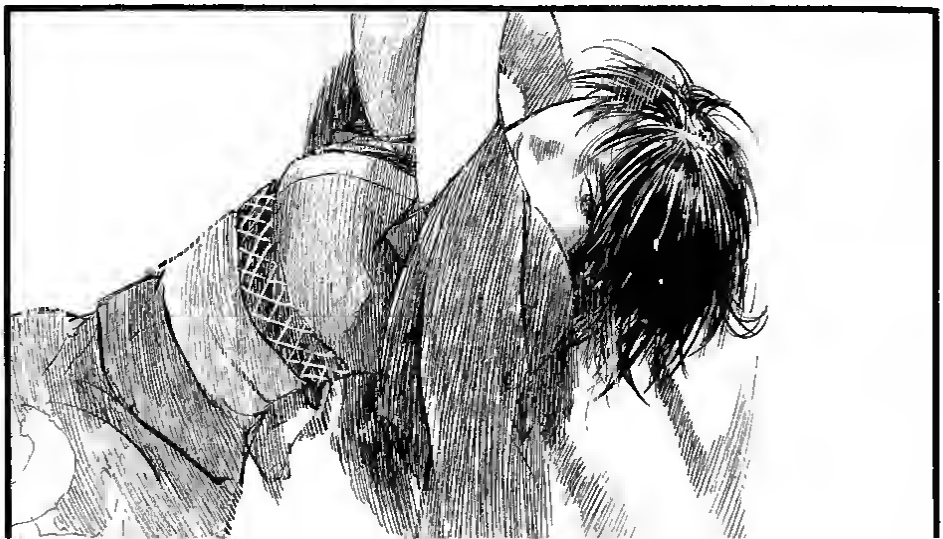
...GH!
SO, YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE WITH A WEAPON LIKE THAT.
...YOU.



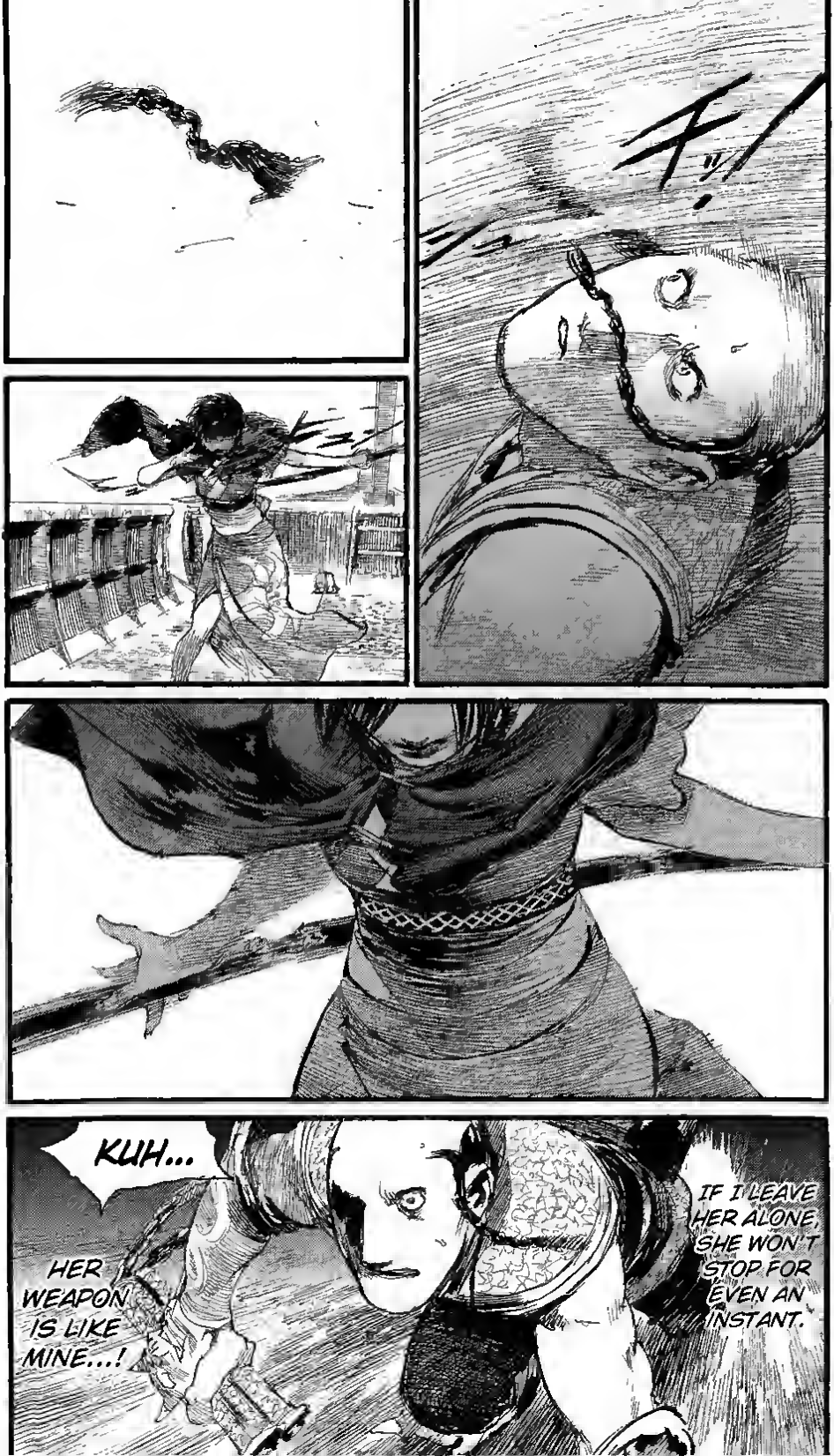

HAHH
HA-AHHH
AH!
GOEE-HHHH...
I COULDN'T SEE... HER KICK
...KEH...

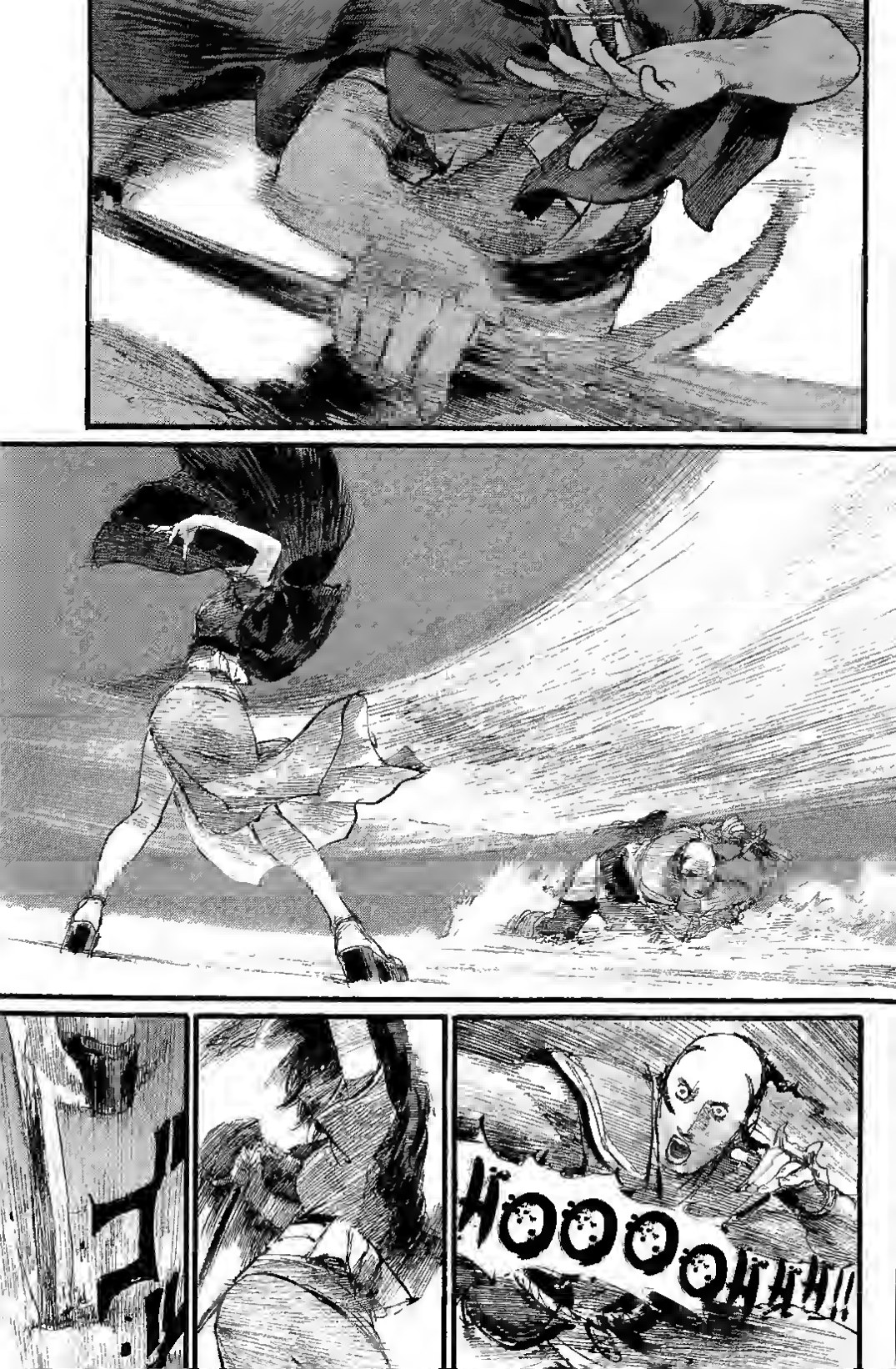


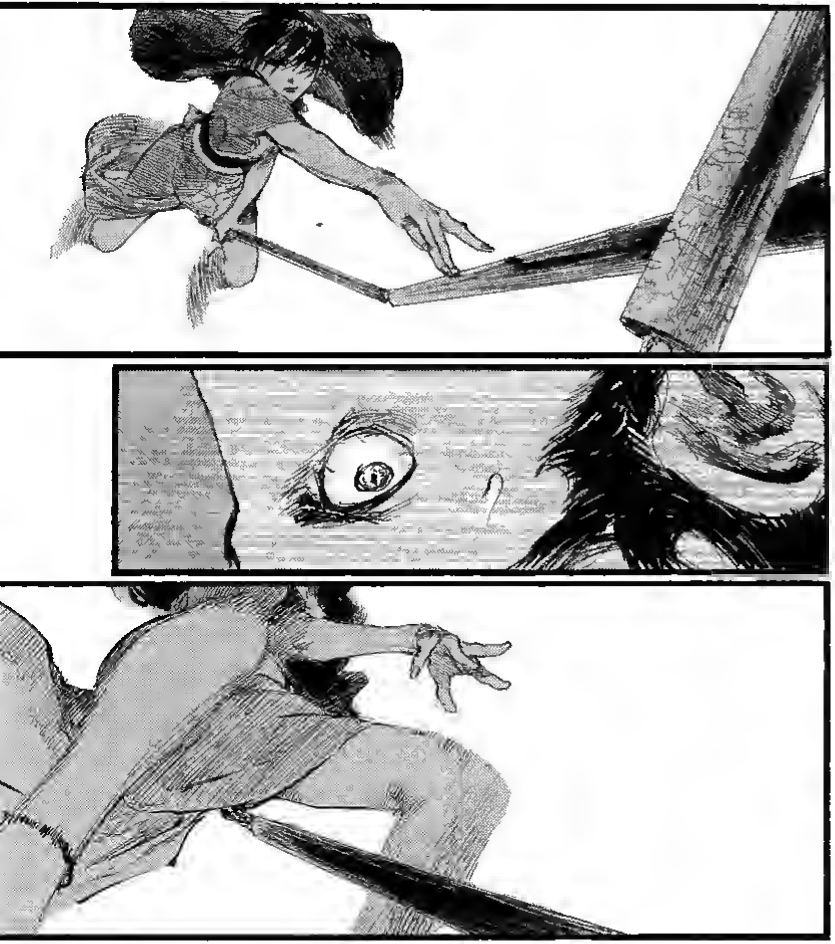




UOH!


KUH...
HER WEAPON IS LIKE MINE...!
IF I LEAVE HER ALONE, SHE WON'T STOP FOR EVEN AN INSTANT.


HOOOOAHH!!



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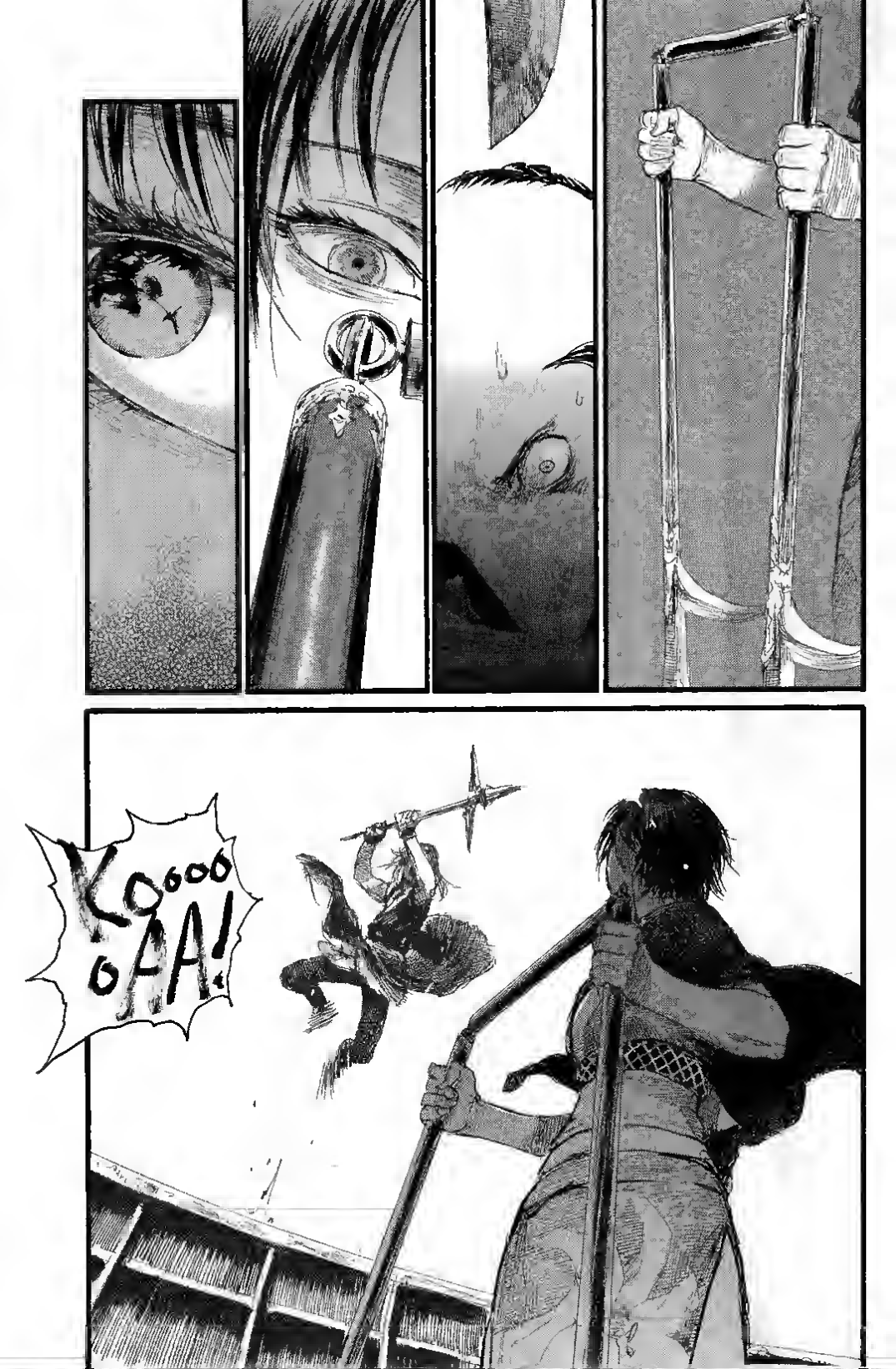
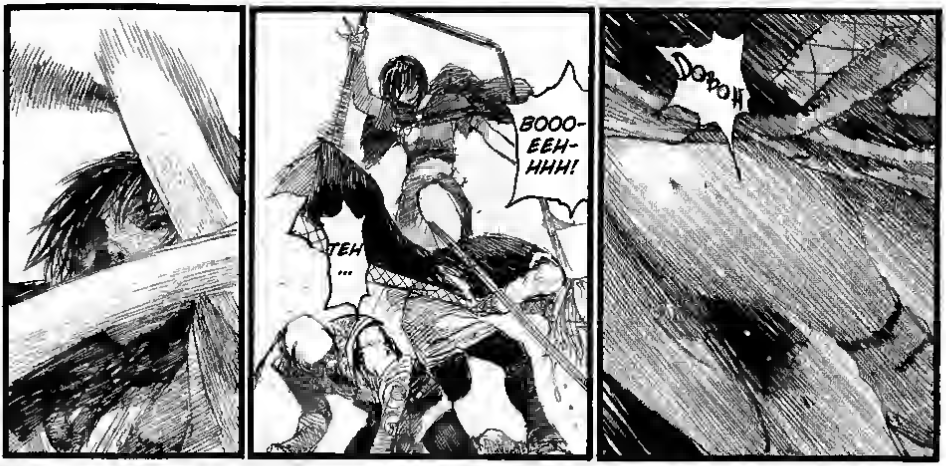
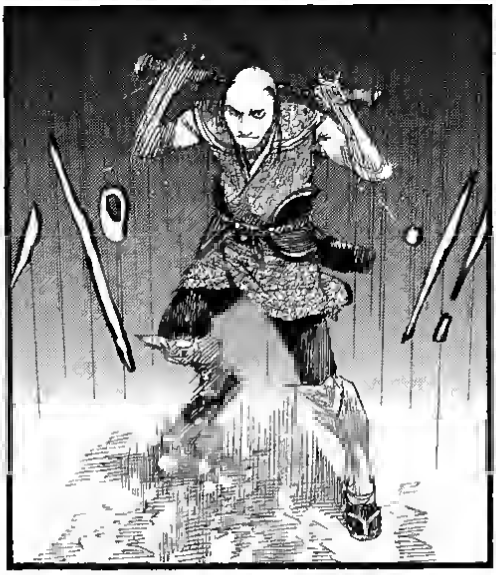
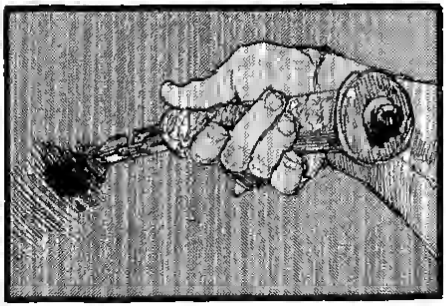
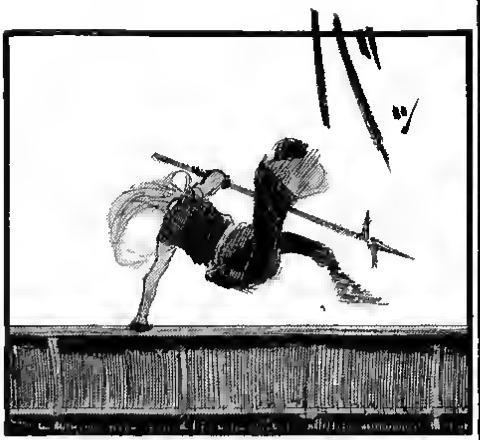
IM... IMPOS-SIBLE.
I CAN'T MOVE... MY BODY...!
I CAN'T SPEAK, EITHER...!


KOOOO
GAA!

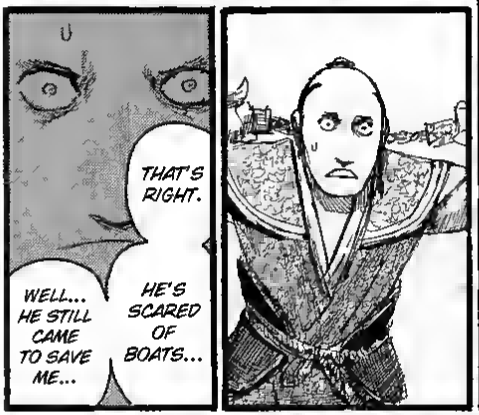

BOOO-EEH-HHH!
EH...
DOOOH

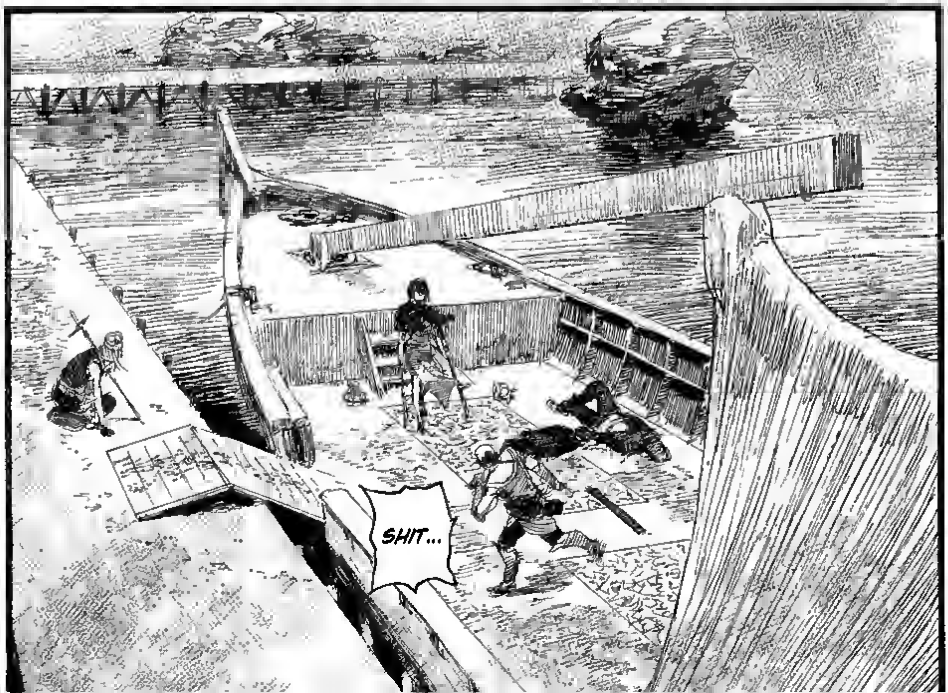




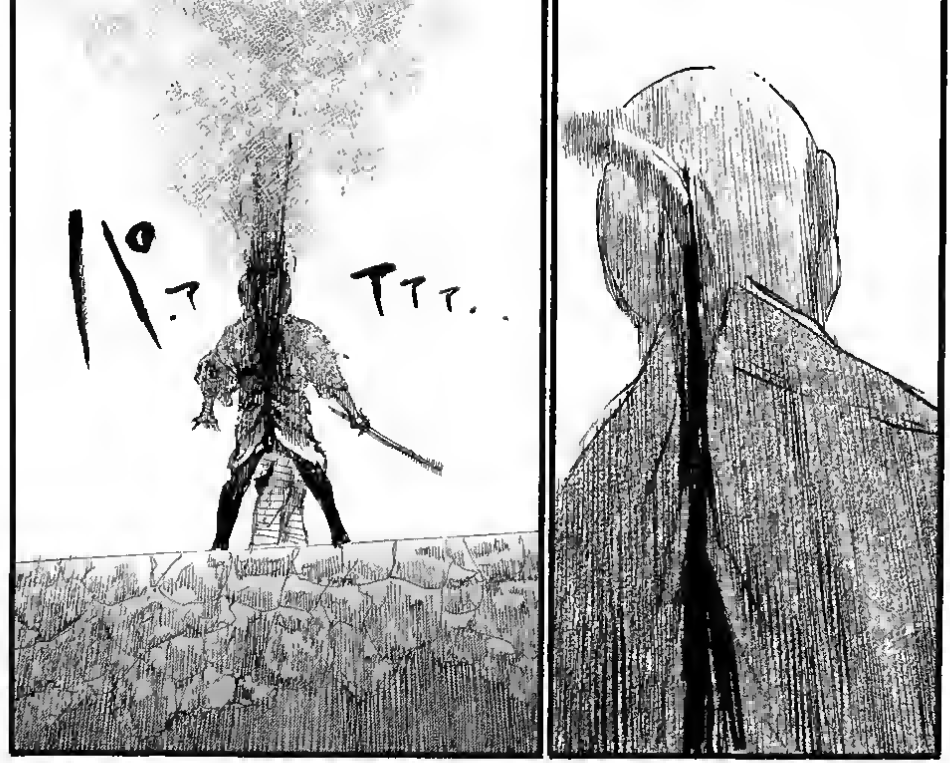


HEY...
HEY, TARIE-SHIN!!


WELL... HE STILL CAME TO SAVE ME...
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE'S SCARED OF BOATS...

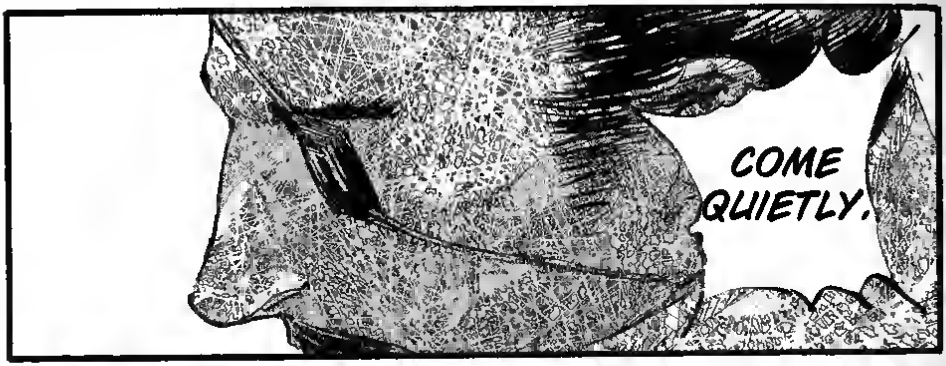

SHIT...

WE'RE HEADING BACK, TARIE-SHIN!
WE'LL LEAVE THIS WOMAN TO HABAKI.
THIS ISN'T WORTH THE RISK.


ドドドド…

THAT'S...

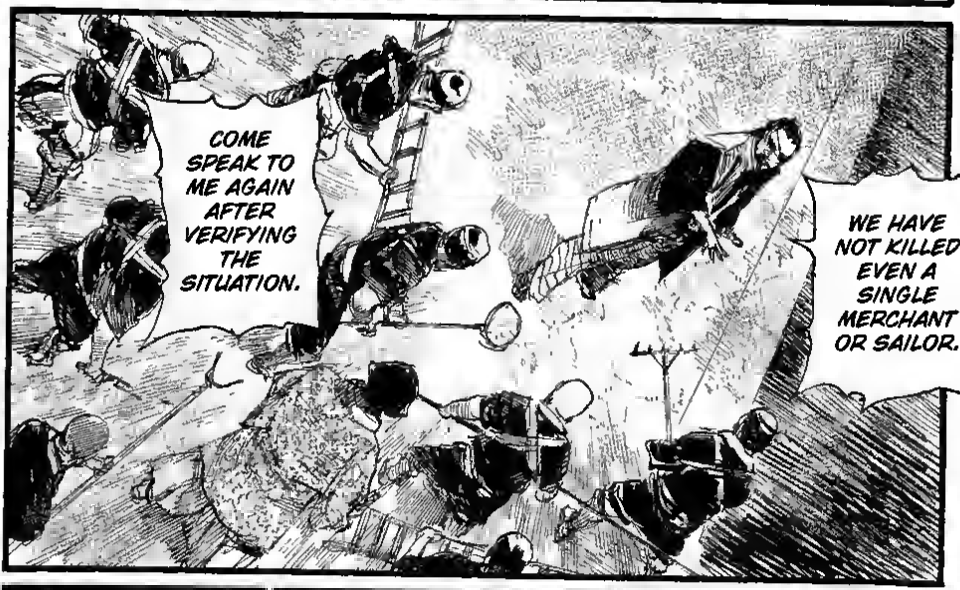
COULD IT BE...?
WHAT IS IT... WHY ARE THEY IN SUCH A RUSH?
TARIESHIN AND... DOMA?


COME QUIETLY.

YOU DARED TO LAY HANDS ON THE CASTLE RICE COLLEC-TORS...

OFFICIAL BUSINESS, OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SHIPS BOUND FOR EDO, THE GOVERNMENT WON'T REMAIN SILENT ABOUT IT!!
DO YOU WANT YOUR WHOLE CLAN TO BE WIPED OUT!?
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

THIS IS A GRAVE MIS-UNDER-STANDING.
DON'T MAKE SUCH A RACKET.

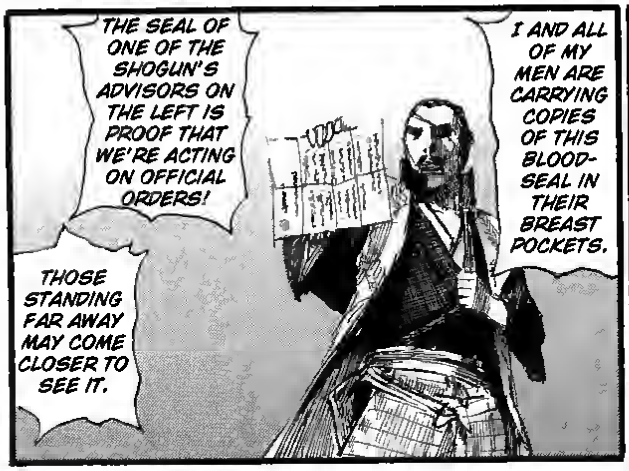

COME SPEAK TO ME AGAIN AFTER VERIFYING THE SITUATION.
WE HAVE NOT KILLED EVEN A SINGLE MERCHANT OR SAILOR.

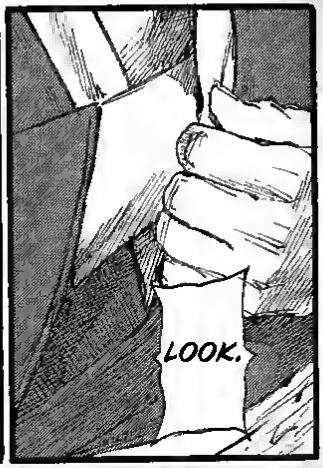
THE ITTOU-RYUU.
I EXPECT YOU'VE HEARD OF THEM.

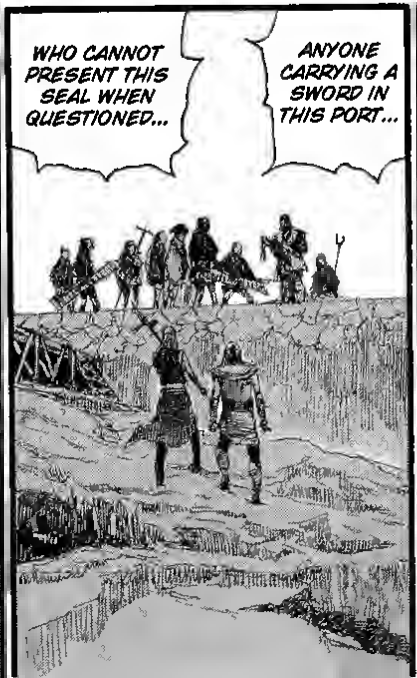
I AM THE NEW HEAD CLERK, HABAKI KAGI-MURA.
I HAVE COME HERE PURSUING CRIMINALS ON OFFICIAL ORDERS.
THESE CRIMI-NALS ARE CALLED...

DON'T MAKE SUCH SHAMELESS EXCUSES.
RIGHT NOW...

RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE CAUSING TROUBLE IN THIS PORT.
THE ITTOU-RYUU, VIOLENTLY STEALING CARGO FROM MERCHANT SAILORS...
AND MY COMRADES, WHO ARE KILLING THE ITTOU-RYUU.

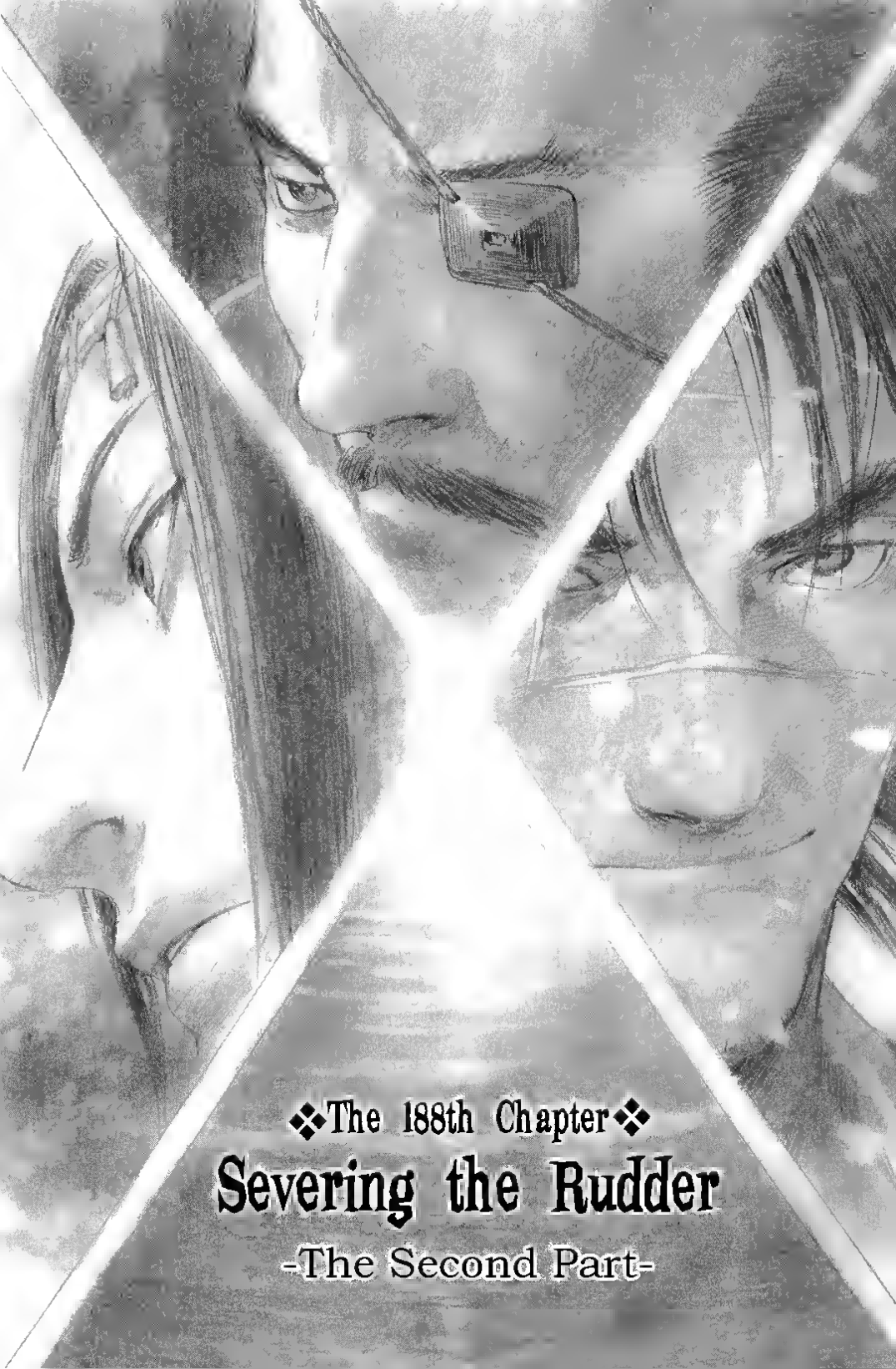

I AND ALL OF MY MEN ARE CARRYING COPIES OF THIS BLOOD-SEAL IN THEIR BREAST POCKETS.
THE SEAL OF ONE OF THE SHOGUN'S ADVISORS ON THE LEFT IS PROOF THAT WE'RE ACTING ON OFFICIAL ORDERS!
THOSE STANDING FAR AWAY MAY COME CLOSER TO SEE IT.

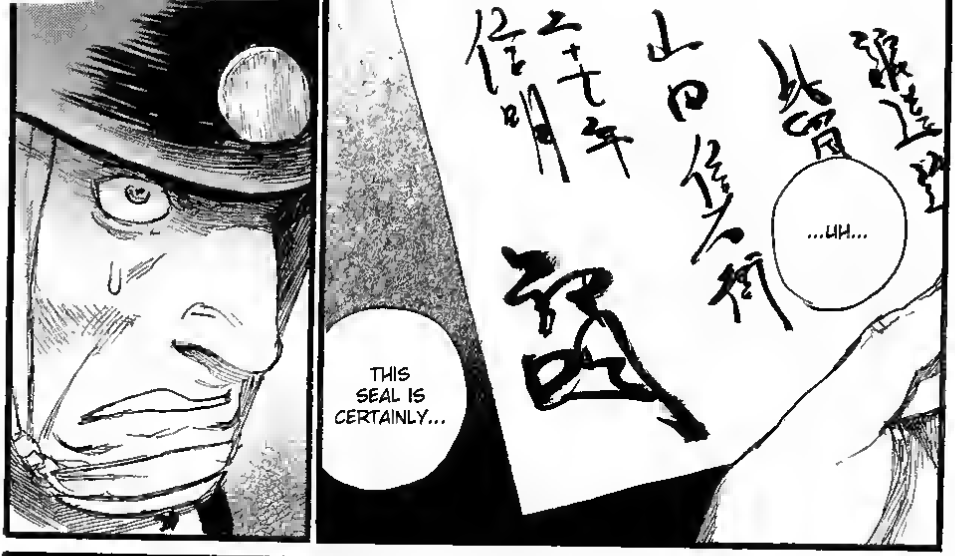

LOOK.

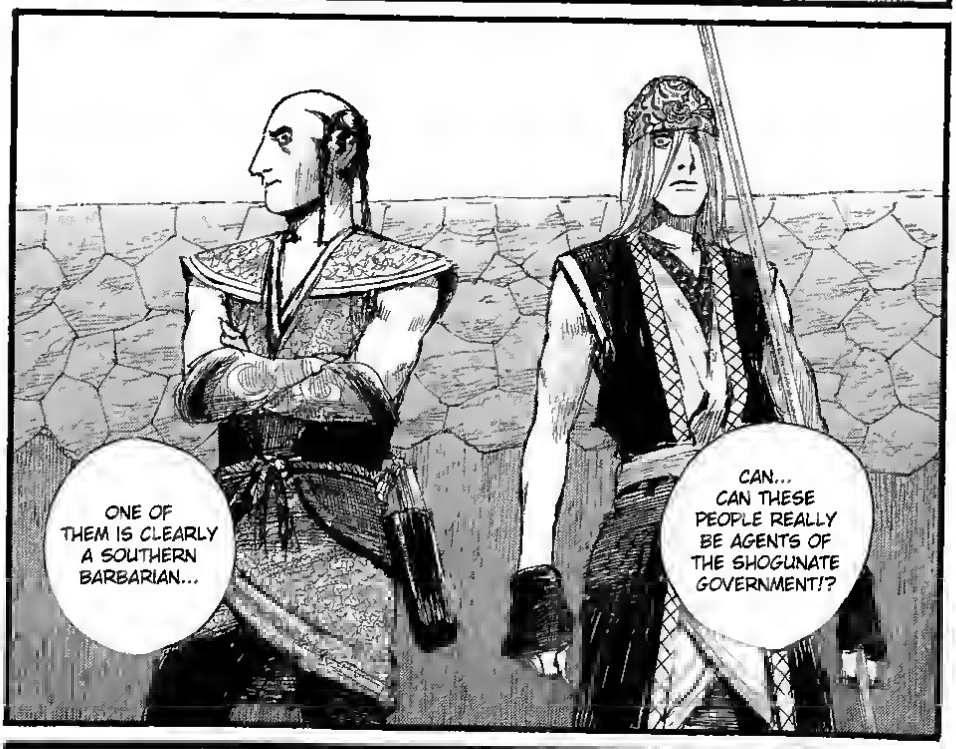

ANYONE CARRYING A SWORD IN THIS PORT...
WHO CANNOT PRESENT THIS SEAL WHEN QUESTIONED...

UH...
IT'S... REAL!?

The 187th Chapter End


❖The 188th Chapter❖
Severing the Rudder
-The Second Part-

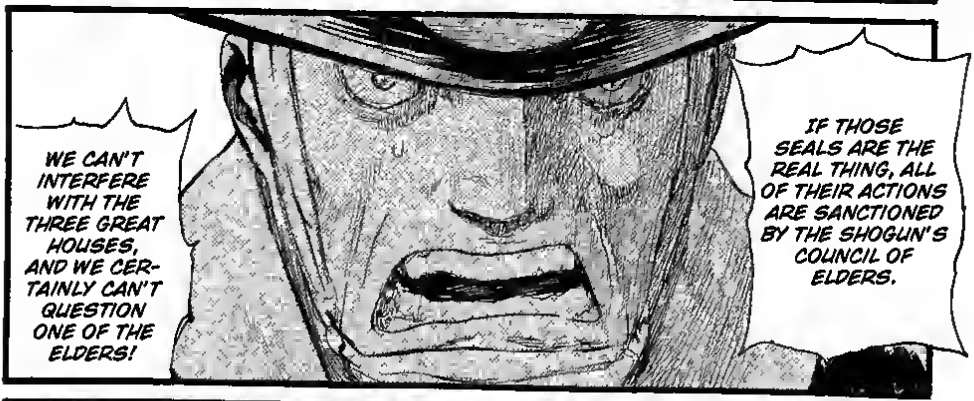

...UH...
THIS SEAL IS CERTAINLY...


ONE OF THEM IS CLEARLY A SOUTHERN BARBARIAN...
CAN... CAN THESE PEOPLE REALLY BE AGENTS OF THE SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT!?

DO YOU PLAN ON QUESTIONING GOVERNMENT ORDERS?
HEY.

IS EVERY-THING IN ORDER?
THIS IS FINE.
That was close
Fuuhhh
.....
IT'S FINE. BE QUIET.
LORD MIWA! LETTING THEM GO LIKE THIS...

WE HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THEIR STORY.
THOSE ITTOU-RYUU REMNANTS MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE.
THE PEOPLE OF THE PORT WON'T BE THE ONLY ONES TO DIE!!


IF THOSE SEALS ARE THE REAL THING, ALL OF THEIR ACTIONS ARE SANCTIONED BY THE SHOGUN'S COUNCIL OF ELDERS.
WE CAN'T INTERFERE WITH THE THREE GREAT HOUSES, AND WE CERTAINLY CAN'T QUESTION ONE OF THE ELDERS!

HEY, YOU.
PRESENT YOUR BLOOD SEAL.

THE BLOOD SEAL ON THE ORDERS FROM THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.
IF YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE, RIGHT!?

HURRY UP, I'M NOT A PATIENT MAN!

.....
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW YOU...
I'M NOT WITH THE SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT, SO...
. . EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO SHOW IT TO YOU
DID YOU HEAR ME?
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE... "ITTOU-RYUU" GUYS...
IF YOU SAY THAT... IN OTHER WORDS...
WAIT, WAIT... NO... ARE YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT.

OFFI-
CIAL
BUSI-
NESS.
OFFICIAL
BUSI-
NESS,
OFFICIAL
BUSI-
NESS.
OFFI-
CIAL
BUSI-
NESS.
OFFI-
CIAL
BUSI-
NESS.
YOU DIDN'T
TURN AND
RUN WHEN
YOU SAW US.
YOU HAVE
GUTS, FOR A
VILLAIN!!

IF YOU COME QUIETLY NOW, YOU CAN AVOID ANY PUNISHMENT MORE SEVERE THAN QUESTIONING AND IMPRISONMENT!!
TELL US WHERE YOUR FELLOW CONSPIRATORS ARE HIDING.
DO YOU WANT TO FACE PUNISHMENT ON YOUR OWN!?

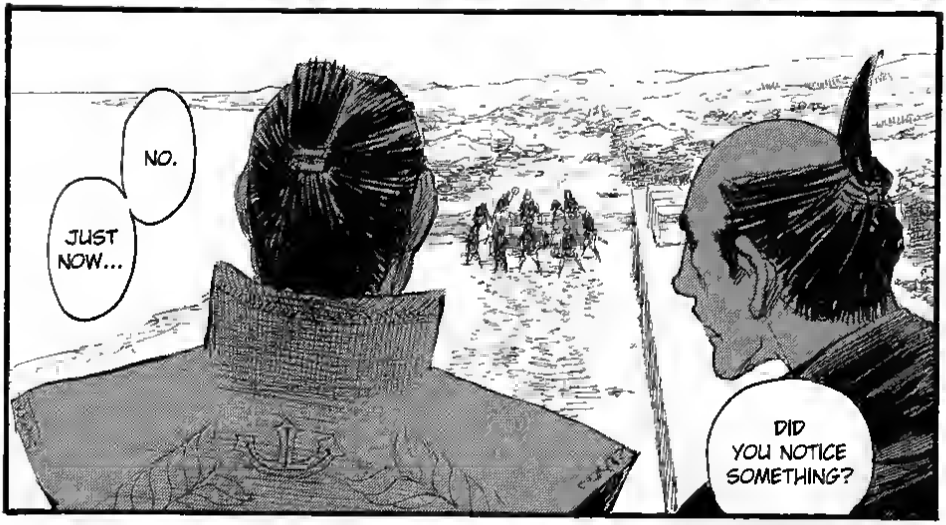
PLEASE WAIT.
IF YOU'RE OFFICIALS OF THIS DOMAIN, THEN...
THERE'S NOTHING THAT YOU...
CAN BLAME ME... FOR...
I ONLY KILLED...

OHH! GOE HHH
WHAT'S WRONG!?

PLEASE, JUST LEAVE ME HERE.
FIND SOME WAY... TO OVER-LOOK THIS...
I DON'T HAVE... MUCH TIME.
PLEASE, JUST LET ME GO...
Y... YOU...
PLEASE...
YOU HAVE TUBER-CULOSIS !?
...THAT ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN DO UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

BRING A ROPE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME LEFT.
PLEASE LET ME GO.
PLEASE LET ME GO.
COME ON, STAND UP.
I'LL LET YOU LEAN ON MY SHOULDER.
PLEASE OVERLOOK THIS.
FIND SOME WAY TO LET ME GO.

HM !?

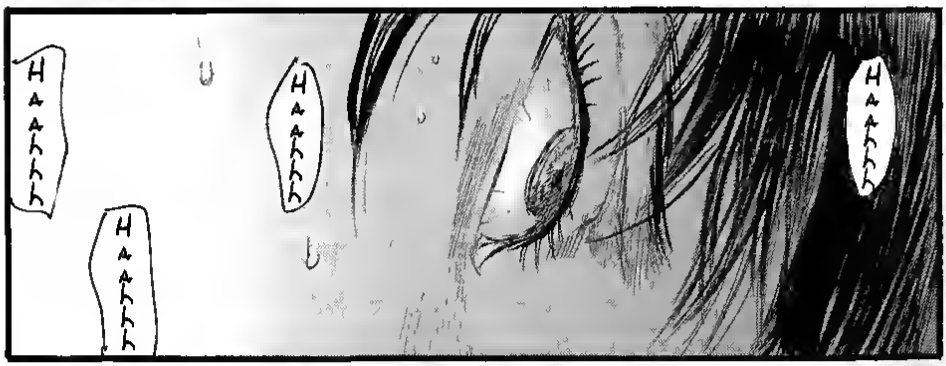

NO.
JUST NOW...
DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING?

THAT WOMAN OVER THERE.
I CROSSED BLADES WITH HER JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO.

HA-BAKI.

I'M SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT WOMAN...
I THOUGHT THAT THE PEOPLE WE FOLLOWED WITH MITOJI UNTIL NOW WERE THE ITTOU-RYUU, BUT...
IT SEEMS THAT MAY NOT BE THE CASE.
NO, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
SHE'S...
DANGER-OUS.
IS THAT THE ITTOU-RYUU?
IF THEY WERE PUTTING ON A PRETENSE HERE...
...IM-POSSIBLE.

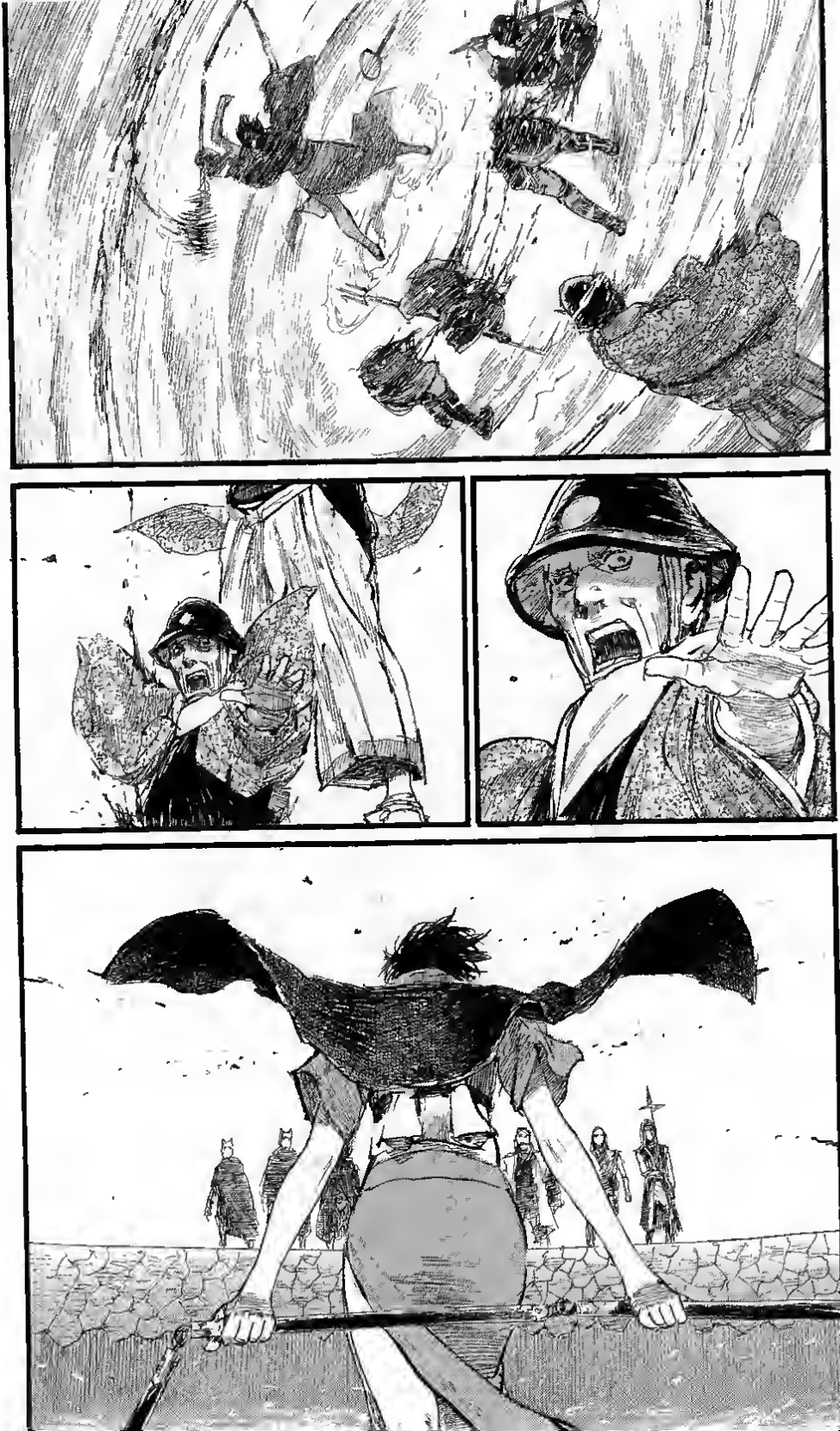
THEIR INFAMY SPREAD FROM TOBA TO OSAKA TO SAGA IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
THERE'S NO PORT THAT WOULD ACCEPT THE ITTOU-RYUU.
MITAKE.
DO YOU REMEMBER?
WHEN KAGEHISA WENT TO KAGA, ON HIS RETURN TRIP,
...THE SWORDSMAN WHO COMPLETELY WIPED OUT THE SHINGYOUTOU-RYUU RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES.
IT WAS FOOLISH OF ME, BUT...
I STILL DON'T KNOW...
THE NAME OR THE FACE OF THAT SWORDSMAN.


HAAAH
HAAAH
HAAAH

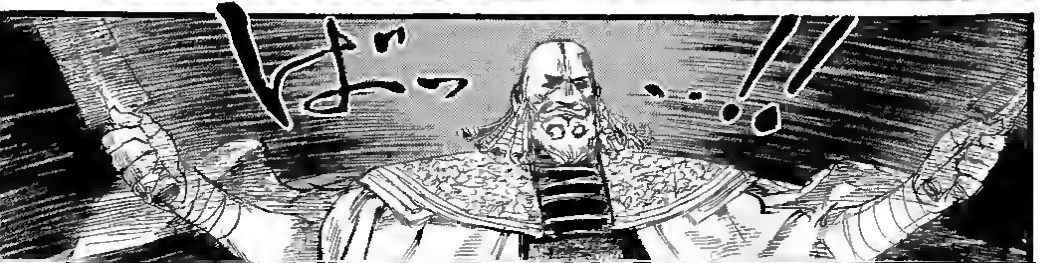
UH...
UHH...
WHA...

...YES.
...PLEASE, GET OUT OF MY WAY...
D... DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?
GRRR...
LORD MIWA...!
...MIH...
A...
AFTER HEERR-RRR!!

HHH
OOOOH



I'LL HANDLE THIS...
LORD HABAKI


はっ…!!

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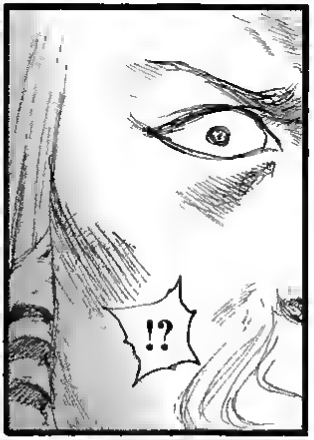
ハァハァ
ハァハァ
ハァハァ
...CAN SHE EVEN SEE?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ガッ！

WHY WOULD SOMEONE WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF A LONGER WEAPON CLOSE THE DISTANCE ON THEIR OWN...?

ｈｈ！
!!

バ！
バ！
チャ..
...THIS IS BAD...

IF I MAKE ONE WRONG MOVE, THE SEVEN OF US WILL DIE HERE.

ハァハァ
ハァハァ
……!?
フ…

...IT SEEMS THAT THE HEAVENS HAVE COME TO MY AID THIS TIME.

.....
...WHAT...?
.....?
I SEE.
IN THAT CONDITON, YOU INTENDED
TO DRIVE THAT MAN AWAY...!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL HER?
...HM? WHAT IS IT?

The 188th Chapter | End